

N° 2110.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1857.

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—THE NEXT MEETING will be held at DUBLIN, commencing on August 26th, 1857, under the Presidency of the Rev. H. LLOYD, D.D., D.C.L., V.P.R.I.A. &c.

The Reception Room will be in the Examination Hall, in Trinity College.
Notices of Communications intended to be read to the Association, accompanied by a statement whether the author will be present at the Meeting, may be addressed to John Phillips, M.A., F.R.S., Assistant General Secretary, Magdalen Bridge, Oxford; or to L. E. Foote, Esq., Professor Jellott, and Dr. Hancock, Local Secretaries, Dublin.

JOHN TAYLOR, F.R.S., General Treasurer.
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By order of the Committee of Council on Education.

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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The next Meeting of this Corporation for the Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, &c., a Ballot for Chameley Paris Turfmen, and the Election of Fellows, will be held on TUESDAY, July 7, at Three p.m.

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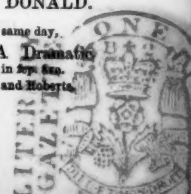
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Christianity in China, Tartary, and Thibet.
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M. l'ABBÉ HUC is already known to the world as the author of the best book of the day on the civil history and institutions of China. It was indeed a subject of some surprise that a "missionary Apostolic," as M. Huc is styled on his title-page, should have spoken so little on the subject of his mission. No reader would have guessed from his book that he was a priest. He appeared to be occupied entirely with the civil institutions rather than with the religious condition of the Chinese. We cannot help thinking that in pursuing this course he was actuated by the wisdom of the serpent. He probably reflected that the circle of religious readers is narrow, while a general account of the Chinese people, by one who had spent many years of his life among them, could not fail to be interesting to all. To have appeared at first as a religious writer would have endangered his chance of being useful. He therefore wisely determined to make himself a merely literary name in the first instance, and then to use it for the purpose of gaining acceptance for the present entertaining and instructive history of the various attempts which have been made from time to time to christianize the Chinese.

These attempts have been crowned with but a moderate share of success; but they have called out an amount of romantic self-sacrifice, combined with the coolest prudence, on the part of the missionaries, which cannot fail to interest the imagination even of those who have no sympathy with their objects. There is something quite sublime in the spectacle of the Dominican and Franciscan friars crossing ice-bound continents in hunger and hardship and peril, in order to teach Christianity to the savage Tartars who repaid their zeal with contumely. We can hardly comprehend the motives of their successors, the Jesuits, in leaving the comforts of civilized, or at least of European, life, to pass their existence in humouring the whims of capricious mandarins, and teaching the catechism to a few of the lowest of the Chinese population. Sternly forbidden to enter the Chinese empire, they settled themselves on the frontiers, and patiently watched for an opportunity of making an entrance into the country, where they knew that nothing but labour and suspicion and persecution awaited them. They perhaps succeeded in obtaining the protection of some mandarin, and proceeded to build themselves a modest house, where they displayed their clocks, and sun-dials, and pictures, and musical instruments, and maps; they next opened an oratory, and, after much patient waiting, made perhaps a few very weak converts. Then they increased the number of their European missionaries, and extended their operations to the neighbouring districts. But this was sure to produce a reaction. The Bonzes and lower class of literary men would rise against them, and their little settlement would be scattered as an ant-hill is kicked to pieces by the iron-tipped boot of a ploughman. But like the ants, the missionaries, at the moment the commotion ceased, with their numbers thinned by martyrdom, would set about the work of reconstruction, and Chris-

tianity would again appear, in the most provoking way, to disturb the quiet of the Buddhist clergy, and to contradict, by its presence, the social and political maxims of a people who have deified order, and subordination, and uniformity, and material prosperity. This avidity for martyrdom, and zeal for the propagation of the gospel among corrupt and hostile nations, is to us Protestants unaccountable. It is a psychological curiosity, peculiar to the early and Roman Catholic forms of Christianity. We cannot sympathize with it. But like the quest of the Sangraal, or the crusades, or any other unselfish pursuit of an abstract principle, it attracts the imagination, and makes a very entertaining romance.

Christianity has made three distinct attempts to establish itself in China. A very early tradition, mentioned by St. Jerome as universally received in his time, asserts that St. Thomas the Apostle established a Christian Church in India; and there is strong reason to believe that many of the doctrines of Christianity, if not Christianity itself, found their way into China. Arnobius, who lived in the third century, mentions the Chinese among the nations who had received the gospel. This early introduction of Christianity accounts, as M. Huc believes, for the strange combination of Christian doctrines and practices with the errors and superstitions of Buddhism, which has excited so much attention and caused so much scandal. The Tartars and Chinese have always been remarkable for their eclecticism. At the present day there are temples in which statues of Lao-tse, Confucius, and Buddha, are all placed side by side on the same altar. It seems extremely probable, then, that following the same principle, they combined the Christianity which they had received from their early teachers with their former idolatries, or corrupted it by the subsequent superstitions of their philosophers. In this way may be explained the fact, that besides the doctrine of the unity of the Godhead, Buddhism contains the belief in an incarnation; and numbers among its practices monasticism and celibacy, fasting, prayers for the dead, and exhibits a certain resemblance to the Catholic liturgy in the mode of its ceremonial worship. A hierarchy resembling that of Rome, the veneration for relics, lighted candles on the altar, and the use of vestments for Divine service, are among the usages which are common to Buddhism and the Catholic Church. These faint traces are all that remain of the early Christianity taught in Apostolic times and in the period immediately succeeding, when Nestorianism was introduced into the East.

These early traditions are connected with mediæval times by the celebrated though mythical personage called Prester John. This appellation, as M. Huc supposes, was not the name of a person, but of a dynasty of kings who governed the Keraites Tartars. One of these princes having adopted Nestorianism, after the manner of eastern monarchs combined an ecclesiastical with a civil title, and called himself Prester, or Presbyter Khan, which, on its transplantation into the west, became Prester Gehan, or Prester John, and was applied to all his successors.

The next effort to convert the Tartars was made by the Dominicans and Franciscans in the thirteenth century. Tchinguis-Khan had spread terror and devastation over the countries of eastern Europe; and the princes of Christendom being unable to resist the barbarous hordes who followed him by the sword,

the Pope, as the father of Christendom, be thought him that the only plan was to convert them to Christianity. Many were the embassies which passed between the Pontiff and the savage successors of Tchinguis; but they effected little. St. Louis, who was forward in every good work, despatched two Franciscan friars, named William of Rubruck, and Bartholomew of Cremona. Rubruck has left a most interesting account of his mission. After undergoing all sorts of hardships, on the 4th of January, 1254, the missionaries were admitted to an audience of the Grand Khair.

"The felt-curtain before the door of the palace was drawn up when we entered," says Rubruck; "and as it was still the Christmas season, we began to sing the hymn—

'A solis ortus cardine,
Et usque terre limitem,
Christum canamus principem,
Naturæ Maria Virgine.'

The great difficulty in all these early missions was, not to persuade the Tartars to embrace Christianity, but to embrace it exclusively. They were perfectly ready to believe in Christ and to be baptized, but they were equally ready to believe in Buddha or Mahomet. Hence Christianity, though readily received, soon died out and became extinct.

But these missions, though not successful as far as their main object was concerned, were fruitful in benefits to mankind. M. Huc believes that it was the Dominican and Franciscan missionaries who brought to Europe from China the secrets of the magnetic needle, and the art of printing and of making gunpowder. The fact is certain that the Chinese had long been acquainted with these arts, that their origin in Europe is involved in mystery, that they appeared simultaneously with the Franciscan and Dominican mission to China, and that they have never been claimed by any European philosopher as his invention. The inference is obvious, and it is strengthened by the fact, that Roger Bacon, to whom the invention of gunpowder is attributed, was the friend of the missionary Rubruck.

The wars of Tamerlane and the overthrow of the Mongol dynasty were fatal to Christianity in the far East. The frequent communication with Europe which had been kept up during the middle ages, ceased about the beginning of the fifteenth century; and when it was resumed in consequence of the rage for mercantile enterprise in the sixteenth century, trade, and not religion, occupied the minds of the daring voyagers, who, by the aid of the compass, traversed oceans which had never before been violated by the keel of a ship.

The zeal for missionary labour was revived in the sixteenth century by the Jesuits; and theirs was the third great attempt to evangelize China. The labours of St. Francis Xavier in India, and his premature death by disease even in sight of the Chinese coast, are well known. But his spirit descended upon father Matthew Ricci, who with a wonderful combination of courage, perseverance, and ability, succeeded in establishing the missions in China, which have never since become wholly extinct.

He was born at Macerato near Ancona, in the same year that Xavier died, and entered the Society of Jesus in 1571. He soon resolved to adopt the career of a missionary to the East, and in 1578 reached Goa, and was joined at Macao by father Roger, of the same order as himself. Some would say that the stratagem by which these Jesuits

obtained an entrance into the celestial empire was unjustifiable. A certain mandarin, having heard of the wealth of the Portuguese company at Macao, and desiring to extort money from them, despatched an edict requiring the governor and bishop of the city to appear before him. Neither of these functionaries at all relished the idea of the visit, and were but too happy to accept the offer of the Jesuits to personate them.

"The pseudo-embassy was received at Tchao-King with the greatest pomp, that is to say, with formidable explosions of fireworks, deafening music, and a rich exhibition of satellites and mandarins of various coloured balls. But this splendid show was intended less to do honour to the Western barbarians than to over-awe them with the magnificence of the celestial empire.

"The viceroy received them in his palace with that lofty dignity so strongly recommended to great officials on solemn occasions. Nevertheless, the proud Governor of Kouang-si softened the haughty arrogance of his features a little on perceiving the rich and curious presents offered to his acceptance, and insensibly assumed a benevolent and agreeable expression. He ordered his interpreter to tell the strangers that they might remain at the port of Macao, and continue to exercise their trade, provided they faithfully followed the laws of the mandarins, who were the fathers and mothers of strangers, as well as of the men of the central kingdom. Then, after casting a glance of longing at the rich offerings of the Portuguese, he told them that he could only accept these presents on condition that he paid for them; and asking the value of each article, he scrupulously paid for it on the spot. This marvellous dignity, however, was only to produce a public effect, for he caused the Portuguese to be privately informed, that with the money thus received they were to buy more presents at Macao, and return with them as soon as possible.

"Father Roger expressed to the Viceroy his strong desire of residing in the empire, informing him that he had studied the language of the country with zeal, and that his greatest happiness would be to pass his life with the Chinese. The Viceroy heard him apparently with great satisfaction, and held out hope that if he were to return another time the request might be granted. The embassy then took leave, and was escorted back to the vessels which had brought it to the sound of tam-tams, and amid an immense concourse of people, gathered to look, for the first time, upon those curious strangers, to whom they soon gave the soubriquet of 'Western Devils.'

An attack of illness unfortunately prevented Father Roger from returning according to his promise. He sent his excuses by a messenger, and astutely added that he regretted this mischance the more, as he had intended to take with him a clock as a present to the Viceroy. The idea of the clock soon produced a letter from that rapacious functionary, inviting Father Roger to take up his abode at Tchao-King as soon as his health would permit, and authorizing him to erect a house and a church for the accommodation of himself and his companions.

After various vicissitudes the Jesuits finally settled themselves at Tchao-King, and obtained a deserted Buddhist temple for a church. The clocks which they made were their great recommendation, and by judicious presents of these wonderful instruments, Father Ricci, who soon joined Father Roger, at length contrived to reach the court and capital. Having once set up his clocks in the Emperor's palace, it was necessary that he should remain at Pekin to wind them up and keep them in order. And there he did remain till his death, and succeeded in establishing missions in various cities, and converting several

natives. At his death a burial place was assigned to the Christians, and their existence and rights were thus acknowledged by a public act of the government.

He was succeeded in the government of the mission by Father Nicholas Lombard; and here began a schism in the Jesuit body which more than anything else retarded the progress of the mission.

Father Ricci had permitted the converts to join in some public ceremonies in honour of Confucius, because he considered them of a purely civil nature, like our commemorations of the sovereign's birth-day. Father Lombard, on the contrary, believed these ceremonies to be religious, and therefore idolatrous. This controversy soon spread, and made a great noise in Europe. It gave birth to a host of polemical pamphlets; and the combatants were at last silenced only by a decree of the Pope.

Meanwhile the Jesuits, by their skill in mathematics and general literature, daily increased their influence. They published scientific treatises in Chinese; they reformed the calendar, and were placed at the head of the literary class, which is the most highly honoured in the state. The narrative is brought to the middle of the seventeenth century, when the mission had reached the acme of its prosperity under the able government of Father Schall. We hope that M. Huc will continue it to the present time.

Though this book is primarily a history of the Catholic mission in China, it is by no means confined to this subject. The history of the conquests of Tchingis-Khan is an admirable piece of historical writing, and there are some very interesting dissertations on the peculiar philosophical and religious opinions which characterize the Tartar nations.

The following account of the doctrines which divide the Chinese is interesting, as showing how the human mind in Europe and in Asia, in England and in China, under all conditions, tends to the same errors when it has not the light of revelation to guide it, or when it wilfully shuts its eyes to that light.

"The first and most ancient of these faiths," says M. Huc, "is that called *Jou-Khiao*, the doctrine of the lettered, of which Confucius is regarded as the reformer and patriarch. It is based upon a philosophical pantheism, which has been variously interpreted at various epochs. It is believed that at a remote period, the existence of an Omnipotent God, a requiter of human actions, was not excluded from it, and various passages from Confucius give room to suppose that the sage himself held such a doctrine; but the little care he took to inculcate it on his disciples, the vague meaning of the expressions he employed, and the resolution he had apparently taken to found his system of morals and justice merely upon the principles of love of order, and of a certain not very well-defined 'conformity with the designs of Heaven,' and the progress of nature, have allowed the philosophers who have succeeded him to go entirely astray, and many of them had, even in the thirteenth century, fallen into a true Spinozism, and while still appealing to the authority of their master, taught a materialist doctrine that has since degenerated into atheism.

"Confucius himself is never religious in his writings; he contents himself with recommending in general the observance of ancient precepts, of filial piety, and fraternal affection, and of maintaining a course of conduct 'conformable to the laws of Heaven, which must always be in harmony with human actions.'

"In reality, the religion, or rather the doctrine, of the disciples of Confucius, is Positivism. They care nothing about the origin, the creation, or the

end of the world, and very little about long philosophical lucubrations. They confine their cares wholly to this life; they ask of science and letters only what is needful to enable them to go through their various occupations; of great principles, only their practical consequences; and of morality, only what is political and utilitarian. They are, in fact, what many people in Europe are now seeking to become."

Quite so; if M. Huc had been describing the religion of "common sense," which is so much in vogue among ourselves, he could not have hit it off more accurately. Compared with the religion of Confucius, Buddhism is spirituality itself.

"The devotion of the Buddhist ascetic was more disinterested [than that of the proud and exclusive Brahmin]; not aspiring to elevate himself only, he practised virtue and applied himself to perfection, to make other men share in its benefit; and by the institution of an order of religious mendicants, which increased to an immense extent, he attracted towards him, and restored to society the poor and unfortunate. It was, indeed, precisely because he received among his disciples miserable creatures who were outcasts from the respectable classes in India, that he became an object of mockery to the Brahmins. But he merely replied to their taunts, 'My law is a law of mercy for all.'

This is, on the whole, a most interesting and instructive book. It not only gives a comprehensive history of that strange race which has periodically poured down upon Europe, and swept away civilization in its track, but it traces, with the acumen of a practised theologian, those principles of thought which have hitherto baffled all the attempts of Christian missionaries, and isolated the Chinese from the rest of mankind. It is a necessary supplement to M. Huc's former work; and we know of no book which gives such a life-like idea of the Tartar people, and that strange effeminate civilization which is the wonder of modern, as it was of ancient Europe.

The Two Aristocracies. A Novel. By Mrs Gore. Three Vols. Hurst and Blackett. *Anne Sherwood; or, the Social Institutions of England.* Three Vols. Bentley.

MRS. GORE is one of the most successful and productive of the writers of ephemeral novels. She knows how to supply an article for this particular demand of the literary market. For a certain class of readers the books are written, and by that class they are with avidity read. They do not claim regard or invite criticism as if prepared for other uses. In the motto on the title page of the present novel the author is candid enough to intimate her limited purpose, "Nous ne prétendons qu'à une chose; c'est à peindre avec fidélité les mœurs de notre temps dans un certain monde." This is done with cleverness of manner, and with fidelity in the broad features, but with grossness of exaggeration in details, which, probably, experience has taught the author is conducive to the popularity of her works. Like manufacturers who, in certain goods, have less regard to durability than to attractiveness, Mrs. Gore trusts to the glaring effects that abound in her productions. The tenor of the tale of the *Two Aristocracies* is almost told by the title. It is the old story of the pride of wealth and the pride of birth, and of the relations between the two classes when brought into contact by family alliance. We shall not spoil the interest of the novel for any reader, but

it is right to quote one or two passages to justify the remarks we have made. At the opening of the tale, the son of an apothecary, in a cathedral and garrison town, has returned to his home after passing some years with a wealthy uncle in the north of England. The officers from the neighbouring barracks were in the habit of "dropping in," and two of the sisters of Mark are speedily "settled." This is a pretty good exaggeration to begin with, especially as one of the Benedicts is a full captain, and therefore not likely to be so "green" as to marry into the family of an apothecary, whose name was "painted in white capitals over a shop window." Mark is treated by them "as if he were a newly-caught bushranger, and they affected surprise at hearing that his Yorkshire schoolfellows were neither tattooed nor decorated with nose-rings." This is intended to be smart, but the absurdity of it appears as the character of Mark is developed in the story. But here in one quotation we can give the reader an insight into the drift of the tale, and a specimen of the piquant style of the writer, which is certainly most amusing, even when least to be approved:—

"Old Gresham chuckled over the idea, as he sat ripening, like a half-forced peach, in Grange's window; sipping a warm jelly, though the thermometer stood at eighty degrees in the shade.

"A strange history—a very strange history this about the defaulters," mumbled he, to Beau Brackstone; who was beginning to assume the blank countenance of an elderly *habitué* of the London *pavé*, who sees his brother *blasts* gradually deserting him, and whose rheumatism interdicts a straw-hat and Cowses. "But it serves Ullesmere right. What business had he to engraft a fine young fellow like his son Bernard on the shaft of a steam-engine?—For my part, I strenuously oppose—in my own family—all intermarriages with the shopocracy. They are sure to end ill. When *parvenus* are prosperous, they are purse-proud. When they meet with reverses, they come on their high connexions for assistance. I black-balled two bankers and an army agent's son, last year, at White's, entirely upon principle; and one of them has since appeared in the 'Gazette.'"

"The air noble with which old Gresham shook out the finest of cambric handkerchiefs, as he spoke, and superciliously applied it to his crane's-bill of a nose, purported that the arms he bore had figured on a shield at Cressy and Poitiers. Yet in the memory of man, the grandfather of the saucy impostor had been a drysalter; though in so small a way, and in so shady a place, that he felt pretty safe from recognition."

THE story of 'Anne Sherwood,' also, belongs to a limited circle of English society, but it deals professedly with a special subject in our social arrangements, the position of governesses in families of the higher classes. In narrating the adventures of 'Anne Sherwood,' the daughter of a clergyman, the writer describes scenes which are said to be the counterparts of actual occurrences in real life. The materials for the composition of the book, it is also stated, have been gathered during the long period of ten years, so that the story is a record of facts more than a book of fiction. Indeed, the form of a novel has been adopted chiefly with the hope of gaining the attention which would have been denied to a graver treatise on the main subject which the writer has at heart. In the census of 1851, the number of females returned as belonging to the profession of education was 71,966. Of this number 41,888 were schoolmistresses, 5,259 general teachers, and 2606 music mistresses, leaving the remainder to represent governesses of all classes. The condition and character, the life

and influence, of so large a number of Englishwomen, for only a small proportion are foreigners, deserve consideration in the study of our social institutions; and the story of 'Anne Sherwood' will obtain attention as throwing light on the subject. The book is inscribed to Mrs. Beecher Stowe, as one likely to sympathize with "the white slaves" of English society, an allusion which reveals the weakness of the book, in the exaggerations, resulting less from the setting down of anything untrue, than from the keeping back of truth on the opposite side, a fault which the story shares in common with that of the American novelist.

History of Civilization in England. By Thomas Henry Buckle. John W. Parker & Son.

[Second Notice.]

HIGHLY as we have spoken of the merit of Mr. Buckle's book, we still find much that is exceptionable. One source of lax argument is the habit of separating, by over-strong lines of demarcation, things that differ from one another in degree rather than in kind. In Nature such lines are rare. Most cases are cases of More or Less; not of Yes or No. The contrast between our moral instincts, which Mr. Buckle makes stationary, and our intellectual achievements, which he makes progressive, is overdrawn—

"Applying this test to moral motives, or to the dictates of what is called moral instinct, we shall at once see how extremely small is the influence those motives have extended over civilization. For there is, unquestionably, nothing to be found in the world which has undergone so little change as those great dogmas of which moral systems are composed. To do good to others; to forgive your enemies; to restrain your passions; these and a few others are the sole essentials of morals; but they have been known for thousands of years, and not one jot or tittle has been added to them by all the sermons, homilies, and textbooks which moralists and theologians have been able to produce.

"But if we contrast this stationary aspect of moral truths with the progressive aspect of intellectual truth, the difference is, indeed, startling. All the great moral systems which have exercised much influence have been fundamentally the same; all the great intellectual systems have been fundamentally different."

The moral truth is one thing. As this was in the beginning, it now is, and ever shall be—positive, definite, known. But the extent to which we may act on our love for it is susceptible of indefinite increase. Neither are the stimuli to this love exclusively intellectual. Our emotions are appealed to as well—and that through poetry and art, though the sympathies invoked by history are of that concrete and biographical kind which also Mr. Buckle undervalues, but which we would defend—admitting it to be unscientific; not, for that reason, disparaging it.

In what may be called the zoological portion of the work—the part which gives a sketch of the Natural History of Civilization—the unity of the human species is assumed. No reason is given for this; nor was any reason wanted. It might simply be a postulate of the author's. If so, the fact should have been stated. As it is, we have something that is neither reason nor no reason. In a note Mr. Buckle expressly endorses the following statement of Mill:—

"Of all vulgar modes of escaping from the consideration of the effect of social and moral in-

fluences on the human mind, the most vulgar is that of attributing the diversities of conduct and character to inherent natural differences."—*Principles of Political Economy*, i. 390.

This merely tells us that a multiplicity of races (or whatever the term may be) is not to be assumed. Neither is the contrary. All that Mr. Mill's opinion touches is the propriety or impropriety of certain modes of argument. Upon the actual fact he delivers no opinion. This matter lay beyond the range of his researches. In the eyes, then, of any of the numerous upholders of the doctrine of a multiplicity of species, Mr. Buckle's reasonings on Man may really be reasonings on several species of men.

The comparison between the powers of nature as exhibited within the tropics is one-sided. They are spoken of as if there was nothing impressive but earthquakes; and as if earthquakes were limited to twenty-three degrees on each side of the equator. For all that Mr. Buckle puts forward there might be no such things as northern seas, arctic darkness, hyperborean meteorology, or (these things existing) their influence on the imagination might be *nil*. Of the all-important element of sea-board little or nothing is said. Pretermissions like this are scarcely compatible with—

"Those exhaustive methods which in other branches of knowledge have proved successful, and by which alone empirical observations can be raised to scientific truths."

The italics are our own. It is just in those "other branches of knowledge" that the shortcomings of Mr. Buckle's speculations in the more speculative parts of his work are explained, and (to a great extent) excused. He is working too much a-head of his preliminaries. The "other branches of knowledge" which most closely touch and more directly support the sort of history that he would write, are in too backward a state to be serviceable. The very question of race and races shows this. It is unphilosophical to assume more than one of them. So writes Mill. It is just as unphilosophical to argue as if only one existed. So says the reviewer. Neither dogma touches the fact. Of opinions on this there are not twenty in the whole world worth having. The subject is too new; and it is new because the preliminary questions are unanswered.

Beginning at the point where the organic chemistry is followed by the vegetable and animal physiology (the biological sciences leading to the social), we find that just in proportion as we proceed from one step to another, the subsidiary investigations become incomplete and rudimentary. Little as we comprehend chemical affinity in itself, we comprehend life less; inasmuch as many doubt whether it come within the class of physical phenomena at all. In botany and zoology, the question of species divides the zoological and botanical world. As we advance from plants to animals the phenomena of mind superadd themselves to those of matter. Man brings in the question of morals; whilst in the zoological aspect, it is an open question whether there be one species of the genus *homo* or many. And then dawns upon us a long vista of dim and uncertain light, suggesting labour upon labour in an almost maiden field. A library of natural histories has yet to be written—histories of the development of certain elements of human civilization—the natural history of the alphabet, of the numerals, of each of the useful,

of each of the fine arts—natural histories of which (in the ordinary sense of the term) the materials are pre-historic, and the methods scarcely thought of. At any rate, the free air of criticism has yet to blow upon them. These have their phases to go through—guesswork, speculation, hypothesis, numerical exposition. No one knows this better than the historian of Civilization in England; no one knows that the phenomena of social and political humanity are at the top of the edifice of human thought; and that the soundest parts of that edifice are those which lie most immediately on their foundations. You may, indeed, miss a story, and replace its solid brick and mortar by means of a wooden scaffold. You may, indeed, build downward. The stable masonry, however, is masonry laid down in its proper course.

A natural (we may, if we choose, say a physical) history of civilization has yet to have its *immediate* foundation laid; has yet to have its proper materials collected. It is probably the work of the next generation.

And when written it will not be by the historian proper; inasmuch as the writer who carries biology into history with sufficient force to effect a revolution, will not be a historian who underpins his narrative with the necessary amount of biology, but the biologist who moves forward into the domain of history. Every department of human thought has its great artists; a name which we cannot avoid by raising an antagonism between art and science. The man who works hard mathematics with ease to himself is a mathematical artist, as truly as the Wizard of the North is an artist in legerdemain. And all great artists are special. They may have a wide view over fields beyond their own. In the field, however, that they work at they are special. Philosophers themselves are only artists whose speciality is generalization.

Work in the way of a superstructure upon a basis may be done by amateurs as opposed to artists. Work in the way of a basis for a superstructure must be done by artists as opposed to amateurs. The error allowable in the one case is mischievous in the other. The word *amateur* means nothing invidious. Amateurs, provided that in some one department they are real artists, can do fair work in others. They understand, they appreciate, they apply. They know things naturally unfamiliar, as reviewers know their subjects, or lawyers their briefs. They get them up. It may be that they keep them up. They show no ordinary powers of mind in doing this. But they don't know things, out of their art or craft, as instruments to work with; as the waterman knows his oer, or the fiddler his bow. And this prevents them from doing work that other men can work upon. In the natural history of civilization Buffon, no doubt, might have done much by moving forwards. Voltaire could not have done much by moving backwards; though he might have done something.

Anonymous reviewers cannot speak to erudite historians, as Coleridge could to young poets, who advised the present laureate to practise himself in the common metres. Let Mr. Buckle make an *excursus*. Niebuhr edited the Byzantine historians as a relaxation during the progress of his 'History of Rome.' Let Mr. Buckle write a monograph on the natural history of some useful art—say shoemaking. We have talked to two men on this subject. One thought

the art was developed, and gave ten thousand years for its development. The other made it an instinct as natural to man as cell-building to bees. Both had thought on the subject; and when some hundred of others have thought on some score of similar subjects—from shoes to statues, from pots to poetry—history of the sort that the 3rd, 4th, and 5th chapters suggest of Mr. Buckle's work, may and will be written.

Vacations in Ireland. By Charles Richard Weld. Longman and Co.

THERE needed no preface to inform the reader that Mr. Weld's book was compiled at very wide intervals of his life, and under very various circumstances. The opening chapters which describe the author's wanderings on the Clare Coast, and Kerry, though written lately, at least since 1851, are evidently composed from journals made at a period when perhaps the tourist would have felt more scruple about making them public. One can understand a London bachelor of still youthful feelings, under thirty, as we are here informed, welcoming with satisfaction a warm letter of invitation from a fast Irish cousin, and responding by a hearty acceptance of his hospitable welcome. Nor are we much surprised to learn that, once on the banks of the Shannon, a charming Irish girl made havoc of his affections and his hotel arrangements, and carried by storm in true Irish fashion both his heart and the only spare bedroom at the Atlantic tavern, Miltown-Malbay, where a ball was about to come off. A visit to the abode of the fair lady at Kilkee seems to follow as a matter of due course, but alas! for Saxon gallantry, the writer's blood, as he tells us, began to chill. How will this end? was the cold, calculating question he put to himself; and finally the mask is dropped, and the heartless maxim is openly proclaimed, "Flirt, but do not fall in love." So our author left Kilkee and Kerry as he found them. How long ago this happened we are not informed; but we will not believe that anything but confirmed bachelorhood would have so pleasantly sat down to tell the world these confidential stories. What, says the indignant club-room reader, do I care about his Irish kinsman with his race-horse Nestor? Of course he went to the dogs (the man, I mean), as he deserved to do, for living above his means, and getting into debt. It is easy enough to be liberal with other people's money. Shameful treatment of the lady, ejaculates the fair reader, who thoroughly appreciates the situation. Mr. Weld's tour in Kerry certainly must have been made many years ago, or he would not have the conscience to tell us all this. We hear also of a pattern priest, the P.P. of Kilkee, who may be identified, no doubt, in the memory of many who know the locality, of whom it is true we hear nothing but praise, but even this is scarcely fair.

"Est et fideli tuta silentio
Merces."

But if we pass from these scenes of private life, which Mr. Weld could scarcely have appreciated in their true spirit to have chatted about them so garrulously, and accompany him into the scenes of nature and the fields of science he has explored, the effect is very different.

As a sportsman, our author's efforts were not always crowned with abundant success, but

he recounts them, nevertheless, with equal minuteness, whether he fails to shoot a seal in Dingle Bay, or gloriously succeeds in landing a twenty-seven pound pike on the shores of a lake upon Lord Rosse's estate. Of fish and fish craft there is abundance to learn, and the reader will find what is the most efficacious lure for the Carra lakes in the month of September, and how you may preserve white trout effectually for a long time in Connemara, by splitting them longitudinally, strewing salt, pepper, and a *souppçon* of sugar over them, and allowing them to dry thoroughly. If you are wise, also, says the author, you will not fail to fish the Derryclare lake on the day immediately following a hard storm of rain; always premising that you are provided with a government license, under the 11th and 12th Vict., cap. 92, which costs ten shillings, and are prepared to pay five shillings a day for your boat, and half-a-crown each for your boatmen, exclusive of whisky and tobacco. But fishermen must have their marvels like experts of every other order, and, though nothing of a supernatural amount of incredibility happened to Mr. Weld in this way, he extracts an anecdote from the Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, to which, as he says, he leaves the reader to give what credence he pleases:—

"Dr. Warwick, a visitor, detailed some remarkable instances of instinct, or of intelligence, in animals which had come under his personal observation.

"When he resided at Dunham, the seat of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, he was walking one evening in the park, and came to a pond where fish intended for the table were temporarily kept. He took particular notice of a fine pike of about six pounds' weight, which, when it observed him, darted hastily away. In so doing it struck its head against a tenterhook in a post (of which there were several in the pond to prevent poaching), and, as it afterwards appeared, fractured its skull, and turned the optic nerve on one side. The agony evinced by the animal appeared most horrible. It rushed to the bottom, and boring its head into the mud, whirled itself round with such velocity that it was almost lost to the sight for a short interval; it then plunged about the pond, and at length threw itself completely out of the water on the bank. He (the Doctor) went and examined it, and found that a very small portion of the brain was protruding from the fracture in the skull. He carefully replaced this, and with a small silver tooth-pick raised the indented portion of the skull. The fish remained still for a short time, and he then put it into the pond again. It appeared at first a good deal relieved, but in a few minutes it again darted and plunged about until it threw itself out of the water a second time. A second time Dr. Warwick did what he could to relieve it, and again put it into the water. It continued for several times to throw itself out of the pond; and with the assistance of the keeper the Doctor at length made a kind of pillow for the fish, which was then left in the pond to its fate. Upon making his appearance at the pond on the following morning, the pike came towards him to the edge of the pond, and actually laid its head upon his foot. The Doctor thought this very extraordinary, but he examined the fish's skull, and found it going on all right. He then walked backwards and forwards along the edge of the pond for some time, and the fish continued to swim up and down, turning whenever he turned; but being blind on the wounded side of its skull, it always appeared agitated when it had that side towards the bank, as it could not then see its benefactor. On the next day he took some young friends down to see the fish, which came to him as usual; and at length he actually taught the pike to come to him at his whistle, and feed out of his hands; with other persons it continued as shy as

fish usually are. He (Dr. Warwick) thought this a most remarkable instance of gratitude in a fish for a benefit received; and as it always came at his whistle, it proved also what he had previously with other naturalists disbelieved, that fishes are sensible to sound."

Besides which we hear of a salmon which occupied the attention of a succession of fishermen a whole June day, from 5 o'clock in the morning till dark, sometimes single-handed, and at other times three together, and finally escaped their united efforts. The story is a long one, in more than one sense of the word, and as it ends in the discomfiture of the sportsmen, we will not extract it, but merely remark that it came from the lips of the Major, after dinner. But it is not alone of fishing that the author writes; we have a graphic account of the ascent of Carran-Tual, the highest mountain in Ireland (3414 feet), under the guidance of the amusing and efficient Pat Denny:—

"The cone of Carran-Tual rises to the west, an extremely steep climb, which occupied us nearly an hour. The top of this picturesque and grand mountain is composed of weather-worn masses of feldspar and pale-red porphyry, covering an elliptical area of about twenty feet in the longest axis. On all sides except that on which you ascend, the cone falls away in abrupt precipices. The centre of the summit is surmounted by a lofty cairn, a memorial of the labours of the Ordnance Engineers, who made Carran-Tual the centre of their geodetic operations in Kerry. But your vision will soon embrace a wider range, and if you are favoured by a clear atmosphere, you will not be unwilling to assent to the general opinion that the view from Carran-Tual is among the finest of mountain prospects. To the east, a wilderness of peaks, within whose dark breasts lie tiny tarns, which gleam like molten silver; beyond these, but more to the south, the soft outline of Kenmare river and Bantry Bay appear. Lackabaun, the boundary mountain between Kerry and Cork, and the wild district of Gougane Barra, the nursing-mother of the fair river Lee, will be pointed out in this direction by your guide; and, if he be a good Roman Catholic and a believer in St. Patrick, he will tell you that it was from the heights of Lackabaun that the saint blessed Kerry. To the south-west, more peaks, among which the Glencar mountains and many of the Reeks are conspicuous; Cape Clear, a shadowy form in the distance; to the west, Dingle Bay, terminated by Dunmore and Kerry Heads, and the Blasquets; and to the north, the Shannon bays and estuaries, fringed by a thin white line, marking the Atlantic where it chafes the cliffs. If you are as fortunate as I was, you will see all this; and should mists curl upwards and wreath Carran-Tual in their folds, your impressions of the grandeur and vastness of the scene will be increased.

"Here, amidst these gusty peaks, yet undisturbed by man, is the home of the noble golden eagle, once common throughout the west of Ireland, but now principally confined to the fastnesses of Kerry, Clare, and Mayo. For, although naturalists state that the golden eagle permanently inhabits several of the most lofty mountains in Ireland, it is but too certain that this magnificent bird has become very rare. Yet you will probably see one or more sailing majestically over the Reeks. I have seen many during excursions among the Kerry mountains; and once I had the good fortune, while lying amidst the heather, near the summit of the Purple Mountain, to witness a magnificent fellow wheeling in continually decreasing circles, within easy rifle-shot, and gradually dropping towards the ground, until he suddenly made a swoop, and disappeared in a gorge. His purpose was soon apparent, as before I reached the brink of the defile the eagle re-appeared, grasping in his talons what I supposed to be a hare; and, scared by my sudden appearance, went off over the mountain tops, screaming and yelping. * * *

"While musing on eagles, my guide, having fulfilled his pioneering duties, was lying down at full length, smoking his dhudeen in silent enjoyment. The pipe finished, he was eloquent in praise of the extensive view. 'Why, yer honour, I'm tould if yez good eyes yez can see Meriky.'—'Not quite so far, I think.'—'Well, thin, 'tis myself would like to see it, any how.'—'Then you have friends there?'—'Troth I have, yer honour, and relations too.' Then he proceeded to tell me of their emigration and prosperity in the great country; and how one of his sisters had become a grand lady, wearing silk dresses, which puzzled him much, as she was only a factory girl. Ascertaining that she was at Lowell, near Boston, I told my guide that I knew the place where his sister worked; upon which he started to his feet, and besieged me with numberless questions respecting her occupation and the locality where she was living. It appeared that she had promised to send him money to take him out to America, and he was daily expecting a remittance; though how she could manage to effect this, seeing that she was only working in a cotton mill, was beyond his comprehension. I bade him have faith in her promise, assuring him that the young ladies of Lowell had means to do many things besides adorning themselves in silk and satin."

More interesting matter still is contained in the chapters describing Lord Rosse's telescope at Parsonstown. The contents of these chapters have already, it would seem, appeared in 'Fraser'; and indeed the description would convey little that is new to our readers; but the interest that attaches to this wonder of the age—the "broad bright eye"—"true and stainless, firm and bright," which, cradled upon a subtle pile of balls and triangles, with its tube slung in a vast apparatus of compensating weights and chains, penetrates and reads the unrevealed mysteries of the heavens, is always fresh and inexhaustible. Into this portion of Mr. Weld's book we will not enter; nor into the very full and satisfactory account of the manufacture of paraffine from Irish peat, and the uses to which it is applied in the manufacture of candles.

Or if the reader be a student of natural history, he will find not a little that is amusing, if not new to him, in the descriptions of the habits of ospreys, cormorants, Mother Cary's chickens, herring gulls, and gannets. The antiquary will rejoice in a new description of the celebrated oratory of Gallerus, and in disquisitions upon the circular stone houses which are to be found near these relics. There also is a full description of the gold treasures of Ireland in the shape of torques and ring money, and of the semi-heathenish observances by way of penance at Croagh Patrick, the holy mountain near Westport. The account is taken in some particulars from the Rev. James Page's work on 'Ireland: its Evils traced to their Source.' Indeed Mr. Weld has added to the interest of his volume by large quotations from ancient and modern lore. He cites a letter of Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Sidney, addressing him as "Harry," and ending with—

"Let this memorial be only committed to Vulcan's base keeping without any longer abode than the leisure of reading thereof; yea, and with no mention made thereof to any other wight. I charge you, as I may command you, seem not to have but secretaries' letters from me your loving maistres,
ELIZABETH Regina."

anent the savage Earl of Desmond, who reigned in Kerry; and he republishes, for the twentieth time, the history of the frightful disease contracted by the girl who superstiti-

ously swallowed earth taken from the graves of pious priests.

New and old therefore are the stores which the author brings from his treasure house, and as he began romantically, so he ends abruptly a volume which, interesting as it is in many particulars, is in none more so than this—that it proves what a variety of pursuits are open, and what a world of various tastes may be cultivated by the summer tourist in Ireland.

The Lives of the Chief Justices of England.
By John Lord Campbell, LL.D., F.R.S.E.
Vol. III. Murray.

[Second Notice.]

If Lord Campbell has treated Lord Kenyon's character with some contempt, he shows at least respect for that of Lord Ellenborough, remembering, as he says, not without awe, his appearance and manner when sitting as judge in Westminster Hall. As the son of a prelate of the church, of great learning and little wealth, Law entered upon his profession with extraordinary opportunities and facilities. He is described as a man of "gigantic" intellect, with the advantage of the best education England could bestow, first at the Charter-House, and then at Trinity College, Cambridge, with Paley as his tutor; as a consummate master of his profession, well initiated in mathematics, and one of the best classical scholars of the day.

Lord Campbell observes that, by embracing a profession against the wishes of his father, he took a responsibility upon his shoulders which acted as a still greater stimulus to exertion. His success appears never to have been doubtful. Under the auspices of the famous Mr. Wood he acquired the mystery of special pleading, and immediately upon leaving his tutor gained business as a pleader below the bar. The pleadings settled by Wood and the opinions signed by him were generally written in a "very large, bold, pot-hook hand," which was discovered by the attorneys to be Mr. Law's; and thus upon setting up for himself he had immediate clients. This lasted for five irksome years, and at length, in 1780, he was called to the bar by the society of Lincoln's Inn. From the first a considerable share of business fell to his lot; but he was not distinguished until a later period, when he had succeeded in obtaining the hand of the beautiful Miss Towry, after, it is said, a third rebuff:—

"The marriage took place on the 17th day of October, 1789, and proved most auspicious. Mrs. Law retained the beauty of Miss Towry; and such admiration did it continue to excite, that she was not only followed at balls and assemblies, but strangers used to collect in Bloomsbury-square to gaze at her as she watered the flowers which stood in her balcony. But no jealousy was excited in the mind of the husband even when Princes of the Blood fluttered round her. For many years the faithful couple lived together in uninterrupted affection and harmony, blessed with a numerous progeny, several of whom united their father's talents with their mother's comeliness."

It was the great occasion of Warren Hastings' impeachment that made the reputation of Law, as another great trial in later times contributed mainly to that of Brougham and Denman. Law was selected as leading counsel for the accused; and such a field for the display of juridical eloquence was never before open to an English advocate. The fact of having to encounter men like Burke,

Fox, and Sheridan, in such a cause and before such an audience, was to a man like Law, *par negotiis*, the flood-tide which led to honours and fortune. Erskine was the only other man who could be thought of for such a duty, but he was far too closely linked by personal and party ties to Sheridan and Fox. Lord Campbell again touches upon the more striking features of this famous trial. He gives extracts from Burke's tremendous opening, which seemed to carry inevitable destruction with it. The line of defence adopted by Mr. Law was to contend that the whole of the charges against Hastings must be opened at once, before the accused person could be called upon to speak in his defence. This point gained, the trial proceeded, and as every one knows, by degrees exhausted itself and public interest by the length and solemnity of the proceedings. Another success on the part of the defence was the assertion of the doctrine that the Lords were to be governed by the rules of evidence that prevailed in the ordinary courts of justice; and thus the evidence of the Mahratta war and of the cruelties of Rajah Debi Singh was rejected, to the infinite mortification and exasperation of Mr. Burke. According to Miss Burney, when Law, on the seventy-fifth day of the trial, rose to speak, he was pale and alarmed, and his voice trembled. The exordium which is handed down, however, of his opening is commanding and dignified. His confidence grew with greater experience and the increasing tide of public opinion; and when Hastings was at length honourably acquitted, he was conspicuous and even famous in his profession:—

"Independently of the real talent which he displayed, the very notoriety which he gained as leading counsel for Mr. Hastings, was enough to make his fortune. Attorneys and attorneys' clerks were delighted to find themselves conversing at his chambers in the evening with the man upon whom all eyes had been turned in the morning in Westminster Hall—a pleasure which they could secure to themselves by a brief and a consultation."

As Attorney-General of the County Palatine of Lancaster, we are reminded of the intolerant prosecution of Mr. Redhead Yorke for a conspiracy to traduce and vilify the House of Commons; and of his triumph over Sheridan, by a very illegal course of cross-examination, in the celebrated trial of Lord Thanet and Mr. Fergusson, on the charge of attempting to favour the escape of Mr. O'Connor in the court at Maidstone. He was fifty-one years old, however, before Mr. Addington, as Prime Minister, offered him, in 1801, the Attorney-Generalship. Law's acceptance of the office was in the following terms:—

"Mr. Addington observed, 'That as his ministry might be of short duration, and the sacrifice to be made considerable, comprising the lead of the Northern Circuit, to which there was no return, he would not expect an immediate answer, but hoped that in two days he might receive one.' 'Sir,' said Mr. Law, 'when such an offer is made to me, and communicated in such terms, I should think myself disgraced if I took two days, two hours, or two minutes to deliberate upon it. I am yours; and let the storm blow from what quarter of the hemisphere it may, you shall always find me at your side.'"

During the short period of his holding this office, and sitting in Parliament, little of historical interest occurred, except the trial of Governor Wall, who was prosecuted by the Attorney-General for murder. This memorable case, where a man, in all pro-

bability innocent, was hunted to death by the unjust clamour of popular prejudice, led on by the judicial officer of the crown in person, is honourably condemned by Lord Campbell. Shortly afterwards, in 1802, Lord Kenyon's death occurred, and Law (now Sir Edward) was appointed to fill the vacant office:—

"His professional qualifications were superior to those of any other man at the bar. Having an excellent head for law, by his practice under the bar he was familiarly versed in all the intricacies of special pleading: although not equally well acquainted with conveyancing, he had mastered its elements, and he could *pro re nata* adequately understand and safely expatiate upon any point of the law of real property which might arise. He was particularly famous for mercantile law; and a thorough knowledge of the rules of evidence, and of the principles on which they rested, made his work easy to him at *nisi prius*. Not only had he the incorruptibility now common to all English judges, but he was inspired by a strong passion for justice, and he could undergo any degree of labour in performing what he considered his duty. He possessed a strong voice, an energetic manner, and all physical requisites for fixing attention and making an impression upon the minds of others. I must likewise state as a great merit, that he could cope with and gain an ascendancy over all the counsel who addressed him, and that he never had a favourite—dealing out with much impartiality his rebuffs and his sarcasms. The defects in his judicial aptitude were a bad temper, an arrogance of nature, too great a desire to gain reputation by despatch, and an excessive leaning to severity of punishment."

Out of the vast number of legal decisions determined by Lord Ellenborough, Lord Campbell extracts those which are most prominent in importance or interest. Here is the amusing case of the Hottentot Venus:—

"Upon an affidavit that an African female, formed in a remarkable manner, was exhibited in London under the name of the Hottentot Venus, the deponents swearing that they believed she had been brought into this country and was detained here against her will, he granted a rule to show cause why a writ of *habeas corpus* should not issue to her keepers to produce her in court, and that in the mean time the Master of the Crown Office, and persons to be appointed by him, should have free access to her:—

*At Venus ætherios inter Dea Candida nimbos
Dona ferens aderat.*

"She appeared before the Master and his associates magnificently attired, offered them presents, and declared that she came to and remained in this country with her free will and consent. A report to this effect being made to the Court, Lord Ellenborough said, 'We have done our duty in seeing that no human being, of whatever complexion or shape, is restrained of liberty within this realm. Let the rule be discharged.'"

An instance is cited in which the turbot-loving Chief Justice protected sailors employed in lobster fishing from being pressed into the navy, observing in his judgment that "the framers of the law well knew that the produce of the deep sea, without the produce of the shallow water, would be of comparatively small value, and intended that the turbot, when placed upon our tables, should be flanked by good lobster sauce."

The remaining instances of his judicial career possess rather a professional than a public interest; but many of them seem to have deeply agitated the mind of the day. Such were the trial of Colonel Despard; of Peltier, for a libel upon Napoleon Buonaparte, who, strange to say, was found guilty in such a period as that between the years 1803 and 1806; and of Leigh Hunt, for publishing an article in the 'Examiner,' against the

excess of flogging in the army, who, to Lord Ellenborough's great mortification, was acquitted.

Lord Ellenborough's refusal to grant a new trial to Lord Cochrane, who had been indicted and found guilty on a charge of conspiring to defraud the Stock Exchange, of which every one now believes him to be innocent, on the ground that he was the only one of the defendants who moved for the purpose, is very justly reprobated by the biographer:—

"Lord Cochrane was thus deprived of all opportunity of showing that the verdict against him was wrong, and, in addition to fine and imprisonment, he was sentenced to stand in the pillory. Although as yet he was generally believed to be guilty, the award of this degrading and infamous punishment upon a young nobleman, a member of the House of Commons, and a distinguished naval officer, raised universal sympathy in his favour. The Judge was proportionably blamed, not only by the vulgar, but by men of education on both sides in politics, and he found upon entering society and appearing in the House of Lords that he was looked upon coldly. Having now some misgivings himself as to the propriety of his conduct in this affair, he became very wretched. Nor was the agitation allowed to drop during the remainder of Lord Ellenborough's life, for Lord Cochrane, being expelled the House of Commons, was immediately re-elected for Westminster; having escaped from the prison in which he was confined under his sentence, he appeared in the House of Commons; in obedience to the public voice, the part of his sentence by which he was to stand in the pillory was remitted by the Crown; and a bill was introduced into Parliament altogether to abolish the pillory as a punishment, on account of the manner in which the power of inflicting it had been recently abused. It was said that these matters preyed deeply on Lord Ellenborough's mind and affected his health. Thenceforth he certainly seemed to have lost the gaiety of heart for which he had formerly been remarkable."

This event was followed shortly after by the trials of Dr. Watson and of William Hone, which served only to show the failing faculties of the enfeebled Chief Justice. The story which Lord Campbell tells about Lord Ellenborough, as he was passing Charing-cross on his way home after Hone's acquittal, pulling the checkstring, and telling the coachman, "It just occurs to me that they sell the best red herrings at this shop of any in London; buy six"—is one of those strange pieces of needless indecorum into which the author sometimes falls. The story is related on the authority of Bishop Turner, and is therefore, we suppose, not to be questioned; but it records nothing more than a very insignificant or undignified proceeding on the part of the Chief Justice.

In September, 1818, came Lord Ellenborough's resignation, which was received by a letter of unusual warmth and grace of expression from the Prince Regent, and in December of the same year he died. The following sketch of his character is from the pen of another biographer:—

"He was not a man of ambition; he had still less of vanity. He received with satisfaction certainly, but without the smallest excitement, the appointment of Attorney-General, the Chief Justiceship, and the Peerage. I never knew any man, except the Duke of Wellington, who was so infinitely just. He thoroughly loved justice—strict justice, perhaps, but still justice. He was also thoroughly devoted to the performance of his duty. I have heard him say that no private consideration could absolve a man from the execution of public duty—that should the person dearest to him in the world die, he would go into court next day, if physically capable of doing so. When he took as his

motto compositum jus fasque animi, he stamped his own character upon his shield."

Out of a large collection, new and old, of Lord Ellenborough's good sayings, brought out of Lord Campbell's treasury, the following may be selected:—

"Mr. Preston, the famous conveyancer, who boasted that he had answered 50,000 cases, and drawn deeds which would go round the globe, if not sufficient to cover the whole of its surface, having come special from the Court of Chancery to the King's Bench to argue a case on the construction of a will, assumed that the judges whom he addressed were ignorant of the first principles of real property, and thus began his erudite harangue—'An estate in fee simple, my lords, is the highest estate known to the law of England.' 'Stay, stay,' said the Chief Justice, with consummate gravity, 'let me take that down.' He wrote and read slowly and emphatically, 'An estate—in fee simple—is—the highest estate—known—to—the law of England;' adding, 'Sir, the court is much indebted to you for the information.' There was only one person present who did not perceive the irony. That person having not yet exhausted the Year Books, when the shades of evening were closing upon him, applied to know when it would be *their lordships' pleasure* to hear the remainder of his argument? Lord Ellenborough—'Mr. Preston, we are bound to hear you out, and I hope we shall do so on Friday—but, alas! pleasure has been long out of the question.'

"Another tiresome conveyancer having, towards the end of Easter Term, occupied the court a whole day about the *merger of a term*, the Chief Justice said to him, 'I am afraid, sir, the TERM, although a long one, will *merge* in your argument.'

"James Allan Park, who had the character of being very sanctimonious, having in a trumpety cause affected great solemnity, and said several times in addressing the jury, 'I call heaven to witness—as God is my judge,' &c.—at last Lord Ellenborough burst out, 'Sir, I cannot allow the law to be thus violated in open court. I must proceed to fine you for profane swearing—five shillings an oath.' The learned counsel, whose risibility was always excited by the jokes of a Chief Justice, is said to have joined in the laugh created by this pleasantry."

"A declamatory speaker (Randle Jackson, counsel for the E. I. Company), who despised all technicalities, and tried to storm the court by the force of eloquence, was once, when uttering these words, 'In the book of nature, my lords, it is written'—stopped by this question from the Chief Justice, 'Will you have the goodness to mention the page, sir, if you please?'

"A question arose, whether, upon the true construction of certain tax acts, *mourning coaches* attending a funeral were subject to the post-horse duty? Mr. Gaselee, the counsel for the defendant, generally considered a dry special pleader, aiming for once at eloquence and pathos, observed—'My lords, it never could have been the intention of a Christian legislature to aggravate the grief felt by us in following to the grave the remains of our dearest relatives, by likewise imposing upon us the payment of the post-horse duty.' Lord Ellenborough, C.J.—'Mr. Gaselee, may there not be some danger in sailing up into these high sentimental latitudes?'

"At a Cabinet dinner of 'All the Talents' Lord — being absent, and some one observing that he was seriously ill, and like to die; 'Die!' said Lord Ellenborough, 'why should he die? What would he get by that?'

"Henry Hunt, the famous demagogue, having been brought up to receive sentence upon a conviction for holding a seditious meeting, began his address in mitigation of punishment, by complaining of certain persons who had accused him of 'stirring up the people by dangerous eloquence.' Lord Ellenborough, C.J. (in a very mild tone)—'My impartiality as a judge calls upon me to say, sir, that in accusing you of that they do you great injustice.'

"While the old Lord Darnley, against whom Lord Ellenborough had a special spite, was making a tiresome speech in the House of Lords, he rose up and said, with that quaint and dry humour which rarely suffered his own muscles to relax, but loud enough to be heard by three-fourths of the peers present, 'I am answerable to God for my time, and what account can I give at the day of judgment if I stay here any longer?'

Lord Tenterden is no hero in Lord Campbell's eyes:—

"He was of very obscure origin; scarcely an anecdote remains of his schoolboy days; his university career, though highly creditable, was not marked by any extraordinary incidents; while at the bar he was more distinguished by labour than by brilliancy; he did not even attain the easy honour of a silk gown; till raised to the bench he never held any office more distinguished than that of 'devil to the Attorney-General;' he neither was, nor wished to be, a member of the House of Commons; when made a puisne judge he was believed to have reached the summit of his ambition; afterwards unexpectedly placed in the House of Lords, his few speeches there were distinguished for flatness or absurdity; he was dull in private life as well as in public; and neither crimes nor follies could ever be imputed to him. Yet is his career most instructive, and by a writer who does not depend upon wonder-stirring vicissitudes, it might be made most interesting. The scrubby little boy who ran after his father, carrying for him a pewter basin, a case of razors, and a hairpowder bag, through the streets of Canterbury, became Chief Justice of England, was installed among the peers of the United Kingdom, attended by the whole profession of the law, proud of him as their leader; and when the names of orators and statesmen illustrious in their day have perished with their frothy declamations, Lord Tenterden will be respected as a great magistrate, and his judgments will be studied and admired."

This picture, though in a strain somewhat too apologetic for the memory of a man whose success needs no excuse, is on the whole fair enough. But when the author proceeds further to discourse, in a tone of appreciating condescension, upon the barber's trade:—"Although there be something exciting to ridicule in the manipulations of barbers, yet," &c., followed by a note, recording his own familiar friendship with one Dick Danby, one of "the most intimate friends I ever had," we cannot help feeling that this mock philosophy and display of affability are unworthy of Lord Campbell. The turning points in the career of Lord Tenterden were few and simple. But for Dr. Osmond Beauvoir, master of the Grammar-school at Canterbury, upon the foundation of which he was admitted, young Abbott might have been apprenticed to his father, and have ended his days as he had begun them. By the recommendations of this learned man, and the assistance of friends, he was sent to the university, where his career was uniformly successful. Even then, had it not been for the advice of Mr. Justice Buller, he might have been induced to live and decay ingloriously upon his fellowship; but he was induced to attempt the law, by the persuasion of this acute and able authority, who, says Lord Campbell,—

"Somewhat profanely cited to him a case from the Year Books, in which the court laid down that 'it is actionable to say of an attorney that he is a d—d fool, for this is saying that he is unfit for the profession whereby he lives; but *aliter* of a parson, *par ce que un poët estre bon parson et d—d fool*.'"

The sound advice of this sage in the law being duly followed, all the anticipations respecting Abbott were fulfilled. He early got into respectable business; his rise was

steady, though marked by no brilliancy—he ended by being something more than a puisne judge, the limit of success which had been prognosticated for him. Little that is interesting can be extracted from the even records of such a life. The circumstances attending his becoming a peer are interesting, as showing some peculiarities in Lord Eldon's disposition; and his decisions on the bench, and speeches in the House of Lords, are not old enough to have lost their interest for modern readers; although, faithful to his promise, he never entered the House of Lords after the passing of the Reform Bill:—

"If he had survived a few years, he might have laughed at the disappointment of those who expected from this measure a new era of pure public virtue and uninterrupted national prosperity; yet he would have witnessed the falsification of his own predictions; for, while individual peers ceased to be members of a formidable oligarchy, the House collectively retained its place in the constitution, and, I believe, it has since risen in public estimation and in influence."

The testimonies of Macready the tragedian, of Talfourd, and of Lord Brougham, to the merits and virtues of Lord Tenterden, are among the agreeable passages with which Lord Campbell closes his entertaining but not faultless volume. No one else probably could have written biographies of such varied interest, but many would have thought it more becoming to despise some of the transparent arts by which the noble author has courted popularity.

Recollections of a Lifetime; or, Men and Things I have Seen. By S. G. Goodrich. Two Vols. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

DANIEL WEBSTER, on his return from his visit to England, said to a friend, that he had found two names better and more universally known in the old country than all other American names put together; "Can you guess which they are?" "Washington and Chief Justice Marshall," was the reply. "No," said Webster, "I meant living persons; they are Judge Story and Peter Parley. The former is known to every lawyer in England, and generally among the educated classes; the latter has possession of the hearts of the young people. In every English family, if children were presented to me as an American gentleman, the question almost inevitably was, Do you know Peter Parley?" So popular, indeed, was the name at one time in this country, that it was used to float into favour many a book besides the reprints of the well-known American writer, numerous as these were. In vain the original Peter Parley protested and expostulated, legal proceedings being useless in the absence of an international copyright treaty with America. Not only was the name adopted for new books, but one enterprising purchaser of "remainders" disposed of an ample store of unsold and apparently unsaleable stock, by removing the original title pages, and substituting others bearing the name of Peter Parley. As might be expected, there were many things in these books utterly unlike what an American would have written, while, on the other hand, awkward attempts were made to give a semblance of foreign authorship to some of the spurious imitations. A certain monthly 'Review' criticized the Parley books, and denounced them as sullied by coarse phrases and American vulgarisms. Of the extracts made to verify this criticism, every one was

from a false book, or from a false passage foisted into a reprint! No wonder that under such an ordeal the name of Peter Parley should have lost the reputation it bore at the time that Mr. Webster spoke of it. The facts, however, as now recorded in detail, afford curious materials for the history of publishing and bookselling, as well as apt arguments for the adoption of an international copyright between England and America. The original Peter Parley, as may be supposed, is one of its most strenuous advocates.

One word more before we listen to the author of these autobiographical recollections without his long-worn and well-known mask. The publications of Peter Parley mark an important epoch in juvenile literature. His *Tales about Animals*, and *Tales about Europe*, and *Africa*, and other countries, were among the first books of a useful and instructive as well as entertaining kind for the young which obtained a world-wide popularity. For a time they almost drove out of the market the class of children's books which had been current for generations. We are no advocates for the suppression of fairy tales, and have a genial recollection of the mythical giants and genii of the old nursery books. But it is well that additional entertainment is now provided for youthful minds besides what used to be found in such stories as 'Puss in Boots,' or 'Jack the Giant Killer.' Tales of travels, of history, of nature, and of art; books designed to cultivate a love of truth, charity, piety, and virtue now divide the attention of the young with stories addressed to the imagination alone. For the wholesome revolution that has taken place in the light literature of the nursery and the school-room, we are indebted to Peter Parley more than to any other writer. The utilitarian system has since, indeed, been carried to an unwarrantable extreme, and dry books of facts are too often forced upon the tender mind. But the change from the old literature has on the whole been beneficial, and one useful result has been the purifying and refining of the stock nursery books of fiction. Peter Parley therefore deserves honourable remembrance in the annals of juvenile educational literature.

Samuel Goodrich, as the bearer of that familiar name is non-professionally called, was born at Ridgefield, in the western part of the State of Connecticut, in 1793. He now resides in Paris, where he was the American consul during the stirring time of Louis Napoleon's consulate, the *coup d'état*, and the establishment of the empire. On the accession of President Pierce a new consul was appointed, which left Mr. Goodrich leisure for resuming his literary pursuits, and the result is this copious autobiography in the form of letters to a friend. To an English reader some parts of the work are tediously diffuse, especially those which relate to American politics, and personages not of public note out of their own country. But the recollections of the social and internal condition of the New England States in the writer's boyhood and youth are of true interest. It is from memorials such as these that the future historians of America will draw the materials for their best chapters. The pictures of life and manners in the old States of the Union fifty years ago correspond to what recollections of England would be in the beginning of the eighteenth century, so rapid have been the changes within the last two or three generations compared with former times. Mr. Goodrich gives most

graphic sketches of Ridgefield, and of Fairfield County, and of the habits and ways of the people at the beginning of the century. Among the incidents of the author's life his first visit to the old world and the mother country, as is the case with all Americans, occupies a prominent place. It was in the days that George the Fourth was king that he came to England, and saw most of the celebrities of that time. His first sight of the Duke of Wellington was at an inspection of his countryman Perkins' steam gun, which was then exciting much interest:—

"The whole performance was indeed quite formidable, and the Duke of Sussex—who was an enormous, red-faced man—seemed greatly excited. I stood close by, and when the bullets flew pretty thick and the discharge came to its climax, I heard him say to the Duke of Wellington, in an undertone—'Wonderful, wonderful!'"

In the House of Commons Mr. Goodrich heard the debate on the City of London petition, in 1824, for a recognition of the independence of some of the South American States. Canning and Brougham were the chief speakers. Brougham is described as having—

"piled thought upon thought, laced sentence within sentence, mingled satire and philosophy, fact and argument, history and anecdote, as if he had been a cornucopia, and was anxious to disburden himself of its abundance. In all this there were several hard hits, and Canning evidently felt them."

Canning was not so fluent, but he riveted the attention of the House.

Edinburgh was the place which delighted him most, both from the beauty of the town and its historical associations, and he was there in the palmy days of Scott and Jeffrey, Dugald Stewart and Chalmers. His introduction to Jeffrey was as characteristic a scene as that described in 'Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk':—

"I found a note—May 31st—at my hotel, from Miss Y....., inviting me to breakfast. I went at ten, and we had a pleasant chat. She then proposed a ride, and I accepted. She was already in her riding-habit, and putting on a hat and collar—both of rather masculine gender, yet not uncomely—we went forth. We were in Queen-street, No. 48; passing along a short distance, we turned a corner to the left, mounted the steps of a fine house, and rang. We entered, and I was introduced to the proprietor, Mrs. Russell. She led us into another room, and there, on the floor, in a romp with her two boys, was a small, dark man. He arose, and behold, it was Francis Jeffrey! Think of the first lawyer in Scotland—the law-giver of the great Republic of Letters throughout Christendom—having a rough-and-tumble on the floor, as if he were himself a boy! Let others think as they will—I loved him from that moment; and ever after, as I read his criticisms—cutting and scorching as they often were—I fancied that I could still see a kind and genial spirit shining through them all. At least it is certain that, behind his editorial causticity, there was in private life a fund of gentleness and geniality which endeared him to all who enjoyed his intimacy. I was now introduced to him, and he seemed a totally different being from the fierce and fiery gladiator of the legal arena, where I had before seen him. His manners were gentle and gentlemanly—polite to the ladies and gracious to me."

At the table of the hospitable Mr. Blackwood, the publisher, he met James Ballantyne and Lockhart, and the recollections of the conversation even at this distance of time it is pleasant to read. Of the many records of visits to the old country by Americans of note few are more entertaining than that of Peter Parley.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- North America, its Agriculture and Climate.* By Robert Russell. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.
- Rain and Rivers: or, Hutton and Playfair against Lyell and all Comers.* By Colonel George Greenwood. Longman and Co.
- Summer Months among the Alps, with the Ascent of Monte Rosa.* By Thomas W. Hinchliff. Longman and Co.
- Memoirs and Letters of the late Colonel Armine S. H. Mountain, C.B.* Edited by Mrs. Mountain. Longman and Co.
- Indigenous Races of the Earth; or, New Chapters of Ethnological Inquiry.* By J. C. Nott, M.D., and George R. Gliddon. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co. London: Trübner and Co.
- The Solar System as it is, not as it is Represented.* By R. T. Morison, R.N. Pipes, Stephenson, and Spence.
- The Bible and Astronomy; an Exposition of the Biblical Cosmology, and its Relations to Natural Science.* By J. H. Kurtz, D.D. Translated from the Third German Edition by T. D. Simonton. Low and Co.
- Memoirs and Adventures of Felice Orsini, written by Himself, containing Unpublished State Papers of the Roman Court.* Translated by George Carbonel. Edinburgh: Constable and Co.
- Proverbial and Moral Thoughts. In a Series of Essays.* By Charles Henry Haughey. J. Cornish.
- The Religion of the Heart, as Exemplified in the Life and Writings of John Bowdler, Esq.* Edited by Charles Bowdler. A. and C. Black.
- The Questions of the Day.* By the Creature of an Hour. Longman and Co.
- Industrial and Social Position of Women in the Middle and Lower Ranks.* Chapman and Hall.
- Miching Mallecho, and other Poems.* By Paul Richardson. J. and C. Mozley.
- Summer Tours in Central Europe, 1855-6.* By John Barrow, Esq. Part III. W. H. Dalton.
- Pauperism and Prevention.* By A. Thomson, Esq. Nisbet and Co.
- Journal of the Statistical Society of London.* Vol. XX. Part II. John W. Parker and Son.
- Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society.* Vol. II. Part IX. Longman and Co.
- The Canadian Journal of Industry, Science, and Art.* New Series, No. VIII. Toronto: Printed for the Canadian Institute.
- Sabbath Lays, suggested by Passages in the Church Service.* Nisbet and Co.
- A Concordance of the Prayer-Book Version of the Psalms.* J. and C. Mozley.
- The Common Objects of the Seashore.* By Rev. J. C. Wood, M.A. Routledge and Co.
- Poems.* By William W. Story. Boston, U.S.: Little, Brown, and Co.

WITH a boldness characteristic of the profession to which he belongs, Lieutenant Morison, of the Royal Navy, undertakes to demonstrate that the Newtonian theory of astronomy, with Kepler's laws, and all accepted notions of scientific men relative to the celestial movements, are absolute chimeras, and that while the sun advances through space at the rate of 100,000 miles an hour, the earth and planets and their satellites move with the sun in cycloidal curves, not in elliptical orbits. The subject is one too vast to be disposed of in a few sentences, and we leave to astronomers the consideration of Lieut. Morison's assertion that the received theory is the result of optical illusion, that has arisen from ignorance of the fact of the sun's motion through space. His theory is not so wild as that which some author last year propounded in a formidably sized volume, that the earth was stationary, and that the sun and stars actually revolved round it as the ancients maintained, and as Giles Hodge still believes in spite of the wonderful things told by the parson in his lectures in the parish school-room, and taught to his children, who are periodically visited by Mr. Jelinger Symons, or some other of Her Majesty's Inspectors. Let those who are disposed to treat Lieutenant Morison's alleged discovery with ridicule remember that when the Keplerian and Newtonian system of elliptical orbits was promulgated, astronomers did not know that the sun advanced in space. This was first announced by Sir William Herschel. Mr. Morrison affirms that the true motion of the moon, for instance, is in the form of twelve small cycloidal curves upon the earth's course, from new moon to new moon, while she and the earth together form one large cycloidal curve in the course of a year, upon the sun's course through space. The elliptic theory is, according to his views, a complicated attempt to "save appearances," accounting for the apparent celestial movements, but unnecessary on the simple theory now promulgated. Mr. Morrison meets the objection to the consideration of his theory on the

ground that the calculations of astronomers are perfectly certain on the existing system, by the remark that the Chinese in ancient times foretold eclipses correctly, and that under the mediæval theory of eccentric spheres and epicycles these complicated theories also enabled astronomers to predict eclipses and conjunctions of the planets. Let the ingenious author of this new system of cycloidal curves work out some astronomical problems on the theory, and present the results for comparison with those based on the truths of the laws of Kepler before he can expect scientific men to listen to him. Let him give a specimen of a simple nautical almanack, and show how the unlearned, as he affirms they ought to be able to do, can obtain results as accurate for purposes of navigation or other uses as those which men of science supply by the system which he opposes.

The narrative of the escape of Felice Orsini from the Castle of St. Giorgio at Mantua has made his name well known in this country. That daring and successful act was but one incident in a life of constant activity and wonderful adventure, the leading events of which are now related in a volume which will be read with deep interest. When men like Felice Orsini are alive, though in exile, there is yet hope for better days for oppressed and unhappy Italy. The correspondence and other documents interspersed through the autobiography give the most satisfactory confirmation of the good faith and authenticity of the narrative. But the work has an importance higher than attaches to it merely as a record of personal history or adventure. It presents a lively view of the social and political state of the author's native land under its existing condition of civil and ecclesiastical bondage. Whatever differences of opinion there may be in this country as to political affairs, all Englishmen are at one in regard to the cruel oppression of the Italian people, and the sympathy towards them is that of the nation, not of a party. Mr. Gladstone has been the most conspicuous in his denunciations of the horrors of the Neapolitan tyranny, and the leaders of all our parliamentary sections agree in warm admiration of the constitutional liberty enjoyed in the Sardinian States, as contrasted with the system of *espionnage* and repression that prevails in other parts of the Peninsula. The life of Felice Orsini will deepen and extend this feeling. But the immediate object professed in the publication is a desire, in narrating the perils he has surmounted, "to encourage his young fellow-countrymen to follow boldly the paths of honour, virtue, and true patriotism." It is a good book, written in a good cause, and we trust it will have a circulation worthy of the object, and that it will exert an influence on the history of the author's unhappy country. The revelations of the spy system, as worked by the various governments in Italy, are of a most extraordinary nature. The reader will also here find materials for more fairly estimating the character and proceedings of Mazzini, Saffi, Garibaldi, and other men conspicuous in the last Italian revolution, than were afforded in the communications that appeared at the time in the columns of the English journals. The time for writing the true history of the events of 1848 and the succeeding years has not arrived, but the narrative of Orsini affords important materials for forming a right judgment of the leading events and chief actors in that memorable movement. But we confess that other considerations give little encouragement to hope for brighter days to Orsini's country. Next to the power of the military and of the police, the great hindrance to any lively hope for Italian liberty lies in the apathy of the mass of the people. The mania for musical and other entertainments is destructive of any higher ambition. Orsini remarks that the ruling powers systematically foster pleasure, as well as favour corruption, a truly efficient policy, which seems to us to be the real cause of the firm hold kept on the degenerate people. Every country has national airs, which kindle patriotic feelings, but in Italy music is only heard with enthusiasm for the art of the singer or performer. There is little ground for expecting that such a people will attain to a glori-

ous future. In the influence of the working of constitutional government, and a free press in Sardinia, the only hope now remains.

The name of the late John Bowdler will be remembered with honour, as one of the noble band of Christian philanthropists who, in the early portion of this century, exerted a powerful influence in improving the tone of political as well as social and religious feeling in this country. With Wilberforce, Zachary Macaulay, Robert Grant, who died when Governor of Bombay, his brother the present Lord Glenelg, Lord Teignmouth, the biographer of Sir William Jones, and the first President of the Bible Society, Henry Thornton, M.P. for Southwark, Thomas Babington, M.P. for Leicester, and other men of that class, Mr. Bowdler was intimately associated in private life and in labours of active benevolence, while his professional talents and accomplishments gained him the respect and esteem of the leading men of his time on the bench and at the bar. A pulmonary disease compelled his removal to a warm climate, and he died at an early age, in Malta, in 1815. Two volumes of 'Remains in Prose and Verse' have already been published, and a selection is now made of papers chiefly on religious subjects, consisting partly of papers contributed to the 'Christian Observer,' with a more detailed and authentic biographical memoir than was given in the previous work. There is an anecdote of Pitt's oratory, told by Wilberforce to John Bowdler, worthy of being better known, that the quotation from Virgil which closed the peroration of his great speech on the abolition of the slave trade, depicting the prosperity of Africa in the evening of her day, was suggested by the first ray of the morning sun, which was then shot through the window of the House of Commons—

"Nos primus æquis oriens afflavit anhelis,
Illic sera rubens accendit lumina Vesper."

On hearing which Mr. Windham, then in opposition to Mr. Pitt, clapped his hands and exclaimed, "Inspiration!" We give the happy quotation as it is massaged by the biographer. A sad instance of carelessness, or worse, and in such an anecdote! It ought to be, we need hardly say,—

"Nosque ubi primus æquis," &c.

The Questions of the Day, by the Creature of an Hour, is an announcement neither very suggestive nor wisely chosen to attract readers; but we can promise that the perusal of the book will afford greater satisfaction than might be anticipated from a glance at the title-page. With much earnestness, and generally with moderation and good sense, the author delivers his opinions on many of the most important questions and controversies of the day. Art and art-unions; celibacy, marriage, and divorce; the temperance question; church and state; emigration and transportation; free trade; our criminal population; peace or war; missions and missionary societies; sanitary reform; sports for the people; university and school reform—such are some of the subjects which are considered in brief and terse essays. On certain points, as with regard to the possibility of the abolition of war, the author has impracticable crotchets; but for the most part his views are sound, and his sentiments such as will elicit general sympathy.

A Treatise on the Industrial and Social Position of Women in the Middle and Lower Ranks, is a work that ought to have many readers. Without assenting to all the author's statements or conclusions, we can commend the work as containing much sensible thought and independent opinion on topics that have always excited much controversy. One great purpose of the book is to point out the importance of women of the middle classes directing more systematic efforts to prepare themselves for obtaining remunerative employment, instead of the whole of the years of youth being passed in getting the accomplishments supposed to be necessary for catching a husband. There are some interesting chapters on the census of 1851, so far as it gives materials for an analysis of the employment of women in industrial pursuits. Of about six millions of women above twenty years of age, three millions, or one half, are at home as wives or

daughters; one million occupy a secondary place in industry as farmers' or shopkeepers' wives, &c., and the remaining two millions are engaged in more domestic occupations on their own account, or are of independent means. A full analysis is given of the employments of the latter class, in all branches of industry. The author has much to say of the peculiar position of women in London and the great towns, where they are pushed aside from many legitimate occupations by men milliners, who measure silk, and sell ribbons, and perform other services that ought to be left to female hands. The chapters on the education, culture, and occupations of women of the middle ranks, present many points worthy of the attention of parents and guardians. As to education, there is much truth in what is said as to the absence of any community of knowledge or sentiment in the training of the young of the two sexes in the middle ranks of English life. "My own Greek, my wife's French, my son's chemistry, my daughter's geography and history, all go for nothing; because not one accomplishment is common to two of us; so I have forgotten my Greek, and my wife her French, my son's prize exhibitions I fear wound up his chemical brilliancy, and his sister is just taking to crochet. It never occurs to us but that all this is as it ought to be; we do not miss a family communion we never had." And then it is shown how there might have been a more rationally cheerful home, had there been some development and use of studies that occupied years of the best period of life, some assimilation of the education of man and woman, so as to afford some community of feeling and of intelligence in the domestic circle.

Mr. Barrow's Notes of Summer Tours in Central Europe will be found convenient and trustworthy guides to tourists who are tempted to follow the same routes. Part I. contained Notes of a Tour in Bavaria, Tyrol, North Italy, Savoy, and Piedmont; Part II., Northern Germany, Styria, Carinthia, &c.; and the present Part, Southern France and the Pyrenees, and Normandy and Brittany. Some portions of these routes are not yet vulgarized by English tourists, and Mr. Barrow's notes afford directions for making the most of a short vacation of two months in the way of continental rambling. He travelled apparently *en famille*, and with the advantage of an experienced courier on each of his journeys; and his Notes will probably be most useful to tourists who are able to proceed on the same scale.

Mr. Thomson of Banbury is well known in the northern division of the island for his zealous and influential labours in many fields of practical philanthropy. In his former work on Social Evils he has discussed various questions of great public interest, and in the present volume he treats of the much vexed and most important question of the treatment of criminals. The subject is one of wide scope, and it is out of our bounds to attempt even an outline of the contents of Mr. Thomson's book. We may describe it as a review of the statistics, legislation, and benevolent exertions of the past ten years in regard to the treatment of criminals in this country, with notices of earlier movements, such as the transportation system, and of kindred topics, such as the Reformatories of continental states. In its general scope and spirit, Mr. Thomson's book pleads for the prevention of crime by attending to refugees and reformatories, as more efficient and economical than the strictest prison or other penal discipline. He also points out the tendency there is to look too much to legislation for a solution of the difficulties of this social problem. An act of parliament can only remove some obstacles, or give some vantage ground, but the real working of any scheme must depend on active and intelligent personal exertion. If there are to be only acts of parliament, carried out by statutory officials, there will be little prospect of any moral improvement, but merely an unnatural repression of the criminal population. Too much legislation is to be deprecated. The main part of the work must still be done by the active efforts of the voluntary

Christian benevolence which has led to the improvements of prison discipline, and the establishment of reformatories and ragged or industrial schools. Mr. Thomson has long studied these questions, and his experience as a magistrate, as well as a director and patron of institutions of a benevolent kind, entitles his opinions to consideration, especially when presented in the clear and concise form in which they are stated in this volume.

The June Part of the Journal of the Statistical Society of London contains several papers of much importance on subjects bearing on political and social questions. On the pay of ministers of the crown, and other state functionaries, by Dr. William Farr; on the progress, extent, and value of the porcelain, earthenware, and glass manufacture of Glasgow, by Dr. Strang; on the progress of fire insurance in Great Britain, as compared with other countries, by Mr. Samuel Brown; and on the electoral statistics of the English and Welsh counties and boroughs, from the passing of the Reform Act to the present time, by Mr. William Newmarch. Among the miscellaneous contents of the journal is the programme of the Congrès International de Bienfaisance, to be held at Frankfort-on-Maine, in September of this year. The success of the meeting held at Brussels last year leads to sanguine hopes of similar beneficial results from repetitions of such gatherings. The meeting commences at Frankfort on the 14th of September, and many most important questions are announced for consideration and discussion.

The fifth number of the Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society, commencing Volume Second of this publication of the Society, contains, with other miscellaneous communications, a most valuable zoological paper, by Professor Owen, on the characters, principles of division, and primary groups of the class Mammalia; and in the botanical department Dr. J. D. Hooker and Dr. Thompson's *Præcursores ad Floram Indicam*, or sketches of the natural families of Indian plants, with remarks on their distribution, character, and affinities. The zoological and botanical portions of each number of the Journal are paged independently, and may be purchased separately. The papers are a selection from those that have been read at the Society's meetings, and which are not to appear in the Linnean Transactions.

The eighth number of the new series of the Canadian Journal of Industry, Science, and Art, contains several papers of much value and interest. Notes of Travel in China, by James H. Morris, M.A., presenting the results of the writer's observations during a three months' residence in that country, are opportune at the present time. A plan suggested by Professor Kingston, Director of the Magnetic Observatory at Toronto, to employ the electric telegraph for predicting and giving timely warning of storms, deserves to be carried into operation. He proposes that observers at various stations on the North American continent should telegraph to the office at Toronto tidings of the commencement of a gale. The operator at Toronto would immediately call the attention of the Observatory by an alarm or other contrivance; then repeat the message, and connect the Observatory wires with those from other selected stations. The Observatory would then issue orders for hourly or half-hourly returns, or make such occasional inquiries as might be thought expedient. As the ordinary course of gales is progressive at ascertained velocities, intelligence might, after a sufficient experience had been attained, be transmitted, and immense practical advantage gained in giving warning of danger on the lakes and rivers as well as at the seaports. At all events, important meteorological facts would be collected by adopting the proposal of Professor Kingston. Reviews of books, scientific reports, and miscellaneous matter bearing on the general advancement of knowledge as well as the special interests of the colony, occupy the pages of the Canadian Journal, which is ably conducted under the superintendence of a Committee of the Canadian Institute, and the immediate editorship of Dr. Daniel Wilson, the distinguished archaeologist.

A Concordance to the Prayer-book version of the Psalms is described by the compiler to be a work, the want of which has often been lamented by the clergy. If this be the case, the help now afforded will be generally acceptable, though we had hardly supposed that the variations from the text in the authorized version of the scriptures were sufficient to render such a work necessary, when the Concordance of Cruden is found in every clerical library. We remember a company of laymen once being puzzled by the question where the expression occurred in the Bible, "like a giant refreshed with wine." The words could not be found in Cruden, but a reference to the Concordance of the Prayer-book version of the Psalms would have disclosed the passage in Psalm lxxviii. 68, "Like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine," is the reading in the authorized version. In Psalm cxxix. 8, the common version reads, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you: we bless you in the name of the Lord." For the same words the Prayer-book version reads, "The Lord prosper you; we wish you good luck in the name of the Lord." The special concordance would here prove of service to a treacherous memory that had lost the exact place of the quotation, and will be generally useful where the words of this version are to be consulted or quoted.

A popular Account of the Common Objects of the Seashore, especially such as are most likely to attract the notice of cockney and rural visitors to the watering places, is found in the Rev. Mr. Wood's cheap and convenient manual, with the additional advantage of carefully drawn illustrations by G. B. Sowerby. Seldom can a shilling be laid out more rationally at a railway book-stall than in the purchase of this volume. Mr. Wood does not meddle with those animals which require the dredge or the net to bring them within reach of observation, but only the objects that may be almost daily met with on the shores. There are also useful directions and hints for an aquarium, with descriptions of the best objects for stocking it, and the methods of preserving them in healthy vitality.

New Editions.

Tom Burke of "Ours." By Charles Lever. Two Vols. Chapman and Hall.
The Curse of the Black Lady, and other Tales. By T. Colley Grattan. T. Hodgson.

MR. CHARLES LEVER, in a new preface to Tom Burke of "Ours," in the reprint of the collected series of his works, tries to make the reader agree with him in considering this as the best of his tales. The wars of the French empire, it is true, were on a grander scale than those of the Peninsular campaigns, and the miscellaneous materials of the Imperial army offered picturesque effects of strange variety, but we have always thought the work inferior in interest to Harry Lorrequer. The canvas is larger, but the painting is not so striking, nor do the scenes come home to English sympathies with the force that romances of the Peninsular war will always carry. It is interesting, however, to have the author's account of the origin of this work, and of the spirit with which he entered on its execution. In early life, he says, he had met with some who had taken part in the glorious events of the wars of the empire, and the name and exploits of the great Napoleon had in boyhood exercised a fascination on his mind. Some of the battle fields he has visited, and of others he had learned the particulars from those who were engaged in the conflicts. The descriptive scenes are often therefore historical in their accuracy, while the dash and liveliness of the fictitious incidents are well known to the many admirers of Mr. Lever's writings. The work is illustrated by sketches of Hablot K. Browne, broad in humour, and with exaggeration akin to that of the narrative.

The Curse of the Black Lady, and other tales, by T. Colley Grattan, are of the kind adapted to the taste of lovers of legends and mysteries. They appear in one of the volumes of Mr. Hodgson's cheap library of fiction.

Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

Vacation Thoughts on Capital Punishment. By Charles Phillips. A. A. W. and F. G. Cash.
Pictures of the Heavens. By the Author of 'A Present for Young Churchmen.' J. and C. Mozley.
Spirit Manifestations. By John Smith Bymer. W. White.
Grammatical and Practical Guide to the German Language. By J. A. F. Schmidt. Part the Second. O. C. Marcus.
Examination Papers in History, Science, and Literature. By Charles Marshall, M.A., Phil.D. Wyand and Co.

MR. CHARLES PHILLIPS proposes the following substitute for the punishment of death—Perpetual imprisonment with hard labour for life, its produce being for the public benefit; the silent system one day in each month; a strict exclusion from the external world in every way; the most frugal fare compatible with health; and the prison to be appropriated to the convicts for murder, throughout the United Kingdom, to be built on an elevation, visible but secluded, to have a black flag waving from its summit, and on its front inscribed, "The Grave of the Murderers." This is a distinct and intelligible proposal, the merits of which can be estimated, as compared with the existing system of capital punishment. If it be granted that the taking the life of a murderer is contrary to the divine will, and an unwarrantable assumption of human law, the scheme might be adopted without much difficulty. It is as severe and horrible a doom as could be contrived, short of death. But we are perfectly satisfied, that after the removal of the dread of capital punishment, the fear of no other consequence would suffice in many cases to deter from cool and deliberate murder. There are many who would gratify revenge, for instance, at the cost of enduring imprisonment for life, who would shrink from the deed with the risk of hanging before their eyes. The scheme would be inoperative in most cases of premeditated murder, while in crimes committed under the impulse of hasty passion there is seldom time for the consideration of any consequences. It will never do, therefore, to give up the right at least to punish capitally, although it may be safe and expedient to adopt the lesser retribution more frequently than has yet been ventured on. If there were certainty of being entombed in the living grave of the murderers, and possibility of immediate death, the deterring influence of the penal code would be at its maximum. Mr. Phillips adopts the usual cant of the sentimentalists, who cry up mercy at the expense of justice. This is neither in accordance with the express words of the sacred scriptures, nor with the spirit and economy of the Christian system. As to the right of the law to punish murder with death, no sound interpreter of the word of God has any doubts. The question has only to be argued on the ground of expediency, and it would be a dangerous state of things if the murderer knew that he could take his revenge or gratify his deep-seated animosity with no other consequences than perpetual imprisonment in a prison, where his bodily health would be carefully tended, and his soul diligently trained for entrance into Paradise. Mr. Phillips repeats the common assertion, that the alleged divine sanctions to capital punishment are all in the Old Testament and not in the New. What does he say to the following passage in the history of St. Paul, who is universally admitted to be the inspired expositor of the Christian system in its relations to the affairs of life?—"If I be an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die." (Acts xxv. 11.) Are these the words of a man who believed the right of taking away life for crime had been utterly abrogated?

Pictures of the Heavens present popular sketches of the most remarkable wonders of modern astronomy, with numerous illustrations and diagrams, admirably adapted to arrest the attention of the young, and to fix the facts of the science on the memory. The book also is characterized by a devout and pious spirit, every fitting opportunity being taken of showing how "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament his handiwork." The most recent results of astronomical observation and research are included in the work, which is one of the best and most elegant popular treatises on the subject. A larger space than is

usual in such volumes is devoted to the classical legends associated with the names of the stars, the signs of the zodiac, and other points of astronomical nomenclature—a feature which renders the book the more suitable as a gift-book to a young student with literary tastes as well as desire for scientific knowledge.

Mr. John Smith Rymer offers his testimony to the occurrence of various phenomena which he describes as spirit manifestations. One of the scenes is noticeable from the persons who were present at the time—Sir David Brewster, Mrs. Trollope, her son, Mr. Thomas Trollope, Mr. Rymer's brother, "a man of intelligence," a college friend, Mr. Home, and the members of his own family were sitting at table. It was a long telescopic dining table, having two legs at each end, and none in the centre. One end was occupied by Mr. Trollope, Sir David Brewster, and Mr. Rymer's eldest girl. Mr. Home sat about the centre on one side, having Mrs. Trollope on his left; Mr. Rymer sat at the other end, the others present occupying the remainder of the table. There was no cloth or drapery of any kind, and Sir David Brewster watched under the table, both before sounds were heard, and during the time they were being made. The table moved from side to side, rose at one side, and was lifted entirely off the ground. Sir David Brewster tried to lift the table. Sometimes he could, and sometimes he could not, or as he himself described it, "the table was made light and heavy at command." Such is Mr. Rymer's statement, with a number of far more surprising performances, such as the apparition of a hand and arm, the playing of a tune by invisible agency, and other operations which respect for the common sense of our readers forbids us to relate. The pamphlet throughout is a record either of most extraordinary credulity, or of mechanical legerdemain and physical contrivance cleverly carried out for the deception and amusement of the company. Mr. Rymer, however, assumes the air of perfect seriousness, and labours hard to persuade his readers that these are really manifestations of the interference of supernatural agency, contrary to all received opinions and the so-called laws of physical science. The age of miracles he thinks has recommenced, and quotes as parallel exhibitions of spiritual agency the apparition of the hand at Belshazzar's feast, the conjuring up of Samuel's ghost by the witch of Endor, and other well-known incidents of Holy Writ.

Examination Papers in History, Science, and Literature, by Charles Marshall, M.A., are intended to serve as exercises for students, the questions being such as relate to subjects discussed in the ordinary text-books in use in elementary schools. The manual is doubtless chiefly prepared with a view to study for competitive examinations, and for this purpose its exercises will be useful in directing students to the subjects with which it is most essential that they be familiar.

List of New Books.

Aethelings (The), by Mrs. Oliphant, 3 vols., post 8vo, cl., £1 11s. 6d.
 Aunt Eliza's Architecture, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Barrow's (J.) Summer Tour, part 3, sewed, 1s. 6d.
 Bayley's (Rev. J.) Genesis and Geology, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
 Brathwaite's Retrospect, vol. 35, fool-cap, cloth, 6s.
 Brinley, 2 vols., cloth, £1 1s.
 Brodrip's (E.) Way-Side Fancies, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
 Bromhead's Popular Paraphrase of the Romans, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Campbell's (T.) Gertrude, post 8vo, illustrated, 7s. 6d.
 Cape's (R.) Autobiography, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Course of Lessons for Infant Schools, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Cumming's (Rev. J. C.) Story of Rushen Castle, &c., 6s.
 — (Dr. J.) Occasional Discourses, 2 vols., 12mo, cloth, 8s.
 Davies (Mr.), Chavies in the Air, 12mo, boards, 2s.
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ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE WAVERLEY NOVELS.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

SIR,—The 'Literary Gazette' has referred me to 'The Times' of June 5, in which I find a note from Miss Scott and her sisters, contradicting a "surmise" that their parents had a share in "the authorship of the Waverley Novels." It is odd that the late Thomas Scott's son and representative, Colonel Scott, should withhold his signature from that document. The denial, however, so far, will doubtless influence the views of many persons; but I confess that my conviction on the subject, as well as the convictions of several members of the late Mrs. Scott's family, remain unshaken. A serious difference of opinion and of policy exists among the relatives respecting this important literary question, and the course to be pursued. One of them in a letter to me says, "Why seek to stifle the elucidation of truth?"

I shall regard this proceeding from the most courteous point of view. My pamphlet connects Capt. and Mrs. Scott with the earlier novels only. Of these the first appeared exactly forty-four years ago—a period probably before the ladies who have addressed 'The Times' were born, or when they must necessarily have been exceedingly young. In their letter they declare that no literary participation whatever, "less or more," took place between their parents and Sir Walter, totally forgetting, or more probably totally ignorant of their uncle's published admission that some of Thomas Scott's literary labour is embodied in 'Peveril of the Peak.'

In Moore's Diary (vol. ii. p. 199) it is recorded, on the authority of Samuel Rogers, that "when Wilkie was taking his portraits of Scott's family, the eldest daughter said, 'We don't know what to think of these novels. We have access to all papa's papers. He has no particular study; writes everything in the midst of us all, and yet we never have seen a single scrap of the manuscript of any of these novels.'" Now, if Sir Walter Scott's daughters remained for years in profound ignorance of their father's intimate connexion with the Waverley Novels, how much more likely is it that Thomas Scott's daughters should not have become acquainted with the fragmentary literary aid contributed from Canada, forty years ago, to the same mysterious compositions—the more so when remembered that obvious prudential reasons prompted the utmost secrecy. My brochure repeatedly refers to the mystery in which the transaction was wrapped, as also to the allegation (p. 99), that "not even Sir Walter Scott's children, or Thomas Scott's children, were let into the secret." More than half-a-dozen veteran brother officers of Captain Scott—men of strong judgment and untarnished honour, who possessed his confidence and friendship, and who have been raised to almost the highest military dignity—have separately published in my book a chain of positive and highly interesting evidence, in substantiation of that which I originally ventured, on merely circumstantial grounds, to conjecture. And I do absolutely defy any attentive reader, no matter how prejudiced he may be, to go through the pamphlet, without his views undergoing considerable modification. They who have not yet seen the work know not its strength, nor can those unacquainted with the contents comprehend the cogent reasons which doubtless caused the secret to remain so long and so carefully preserved.

My attention has been directed to a MS. letter of Miss Scott, in which she very justly speaks in terms of the utmost veneration and affection for "Dearest Uncle Walter," and ardently desires that his fair fame should, if possible, be added to Miss Scott, doubtless, considers it no ordinary duty to come forward zealously to what she conceives to be his support. She does not appear to understand my views, namely—that if others supplied the bricks and mortar, he built the edifice—but imagines that my researches aim to tear down the laurels which shadow the great man's grave. While I admire the watchful zeal evidenced by Miss Scott and her sisters, I cannot but regret that they and others should have so widely misunderstood my motives. "That Scott," said the 'Literary Gazette' of March 14, 1857,—"that Scott obtained many useful and curious materials for his novels from his brother and brother's wife, is attested by conclusive evidence." This is all I desire to prove; and as you have observed when noticing Miss Scott's disclaimer, "no one meant to claim a share of authorship."

When the question was agitated in 'Notes and Queries,' in 1855, Mr. Edgar MacCulloch (Mrs. T. Scott's cousin, and himself an able literary writer) after praising her strong mental powers, remarked "that it was generally thought in her family that she had supplied many of the anecdotes and characters which Sir Walter worked up," and in proof of this statement, Mr. MacCulloch adduced some curious evidence. In a recent letter he says, "My belief now is that she did much more than merely collect the bricks and mortar with which the house was built, and that by far the greater part of the handiwork and ornament was her own."

And now let me examine this singularly tardy "contradiction." Does it say, "we have heard our parents repudiate the report," or "evidence and letters from our parents can be produced denying that they participated in the novels?" Not a bit of it. The manifesto in 'The Times' merely says, "We desire to offer our full contradiction," and again, "We shall be obliged by your publishing our declaration." Individual opinion or mere assertion, unsupported by proof, carries no weight. The recent letter of Colonel McDonnell, Lord Arundel's brother-in-law (published at p. 42 of my book), gives, with ample detail, the memorable confession on the subject made by his dear deceased friend Capt. Scott; and another old comrade, Major Sweeney, deposes to having conveyed, in 1817, a huge mass of "Waverley MSS." from Thomas Scott in Canada to Sir Walter at Abbotsford. But it is useless to cite further proof. My pamphlet furnishes ample evidence, establishing the fact that both the late Captain and Mrs. Scott occasionally admitted that a literary participation had taken place between them and their illustrious relative. They never contradicted an impression which many of their friends, and various literary persons, assure me has existed for the last forty years. And, moreover, they never contradicted the letter (pp. 46 to 48) which appeared in the newspapers, under their very eye, exhibiting on striking evidence the secret of the literary "participation," and which even embodied oral admissions on the subject made by Capt. and Mrs. Scott themselves. Evidence should be met by counter-evidence; and until this is forthcoming, I and others shall "retain our own opinion still."—I am, &c.

WILLIAM JOHN FITZ-PATRICK.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

An important paper was read on the 18th instant by Professor W. Thomson, 'On the Electric Conductivity of Commercial Copper of various kinds.' In measuring the resistances of wires manufactured for submarine telegraphs, the author was greatly surprised to find differences between different specimens so great as most materially to affect their value in the electrical operations for which they are designed. It seemed at first that the process of twisting into wire rope, and covering with gutta percha, to which some of

the specimens had been subjected, must be looked to, to find the explanation of these differences. After, however, a careful examination of copper wire strands, some covered, some uncovered, some varnished with india-rubber, and some oxidized by ignition in a hot flame, it was ascertained that none of these circumstances produced any influence on the whole resistance; and it was found that the wire rope prepared for the Atlantic cable (No. 14, composed of seven No. 22 wires, and weighing altogether from 109 to 125 grains per foot) conducted about as well on the average as solid wire of the same mass, but in the larger collection of specimens which thus came to be tested still greater differences in conducting power were discovered than any previously observed. It appeared now certain that these differences were owing to different qualities of the copper wire itself, and it therefore became highly important to find how wire of the best quality could be procured. Accordingly four samples of simple No. 22 wire, and of strand spun from it, distinguished according to the manufactories from which they were supplied, were next tested, and the differences of conducting power were found to be 100, 96.05, 90.5, and 54.9. Two other samples, chosen at random, about ten days later, out of large stocks of wire supplied from the same manufactories, were tested with different instruments, and exhibited as nearly as could be estimated the same relative qualities. It seems, therefore, that there is some degree of constancy in the quality of wire supplied from the same manufactory, while there is vast superiority in the produce of some manufactories over that of others. The great importance to shareholders in submarine telegraph companies, that only the best copper wire should be admitted for their use, is at once rendered apparent by the fact that a submarine telegraph constructed with copper wire having the conducting power of 100, and only $\frac{1}{10}$ of an inch in diameter, covered with gutta percha to a diameter of a quarter of an inch, would, with the same electrical power, and the same instruments, do more telegraphic work than one constructed with copper wire of $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch diameter, having the conducting power of 54.9, covered with gutta percha to a diameter of a third of an inch. When the importance of the object is recognised, there can be little difficulty in finding how the best or nearly the best wire is to be uniformly obtained, seeing that all the specimens of two of the manufactories which have as yet been examined, have proved to be of the best, or little short of the best quality, while those of other manufactories have been found inferior in nearly constant proportions. The cause of these differences in electrical quality is a question not only of much practical importance, but of high scientific interest. If chemical composition is to be looked to for the explanation, very slight deviations from perfect purity must be sufficient to produce great effects on the electric conductivity of copper, the following being the results of an assay made on one of the specimens of copper wire of low conducting power:—

Copper	...	...	...	99.75
Lead	...	...	...	21
Iron	...	...	...	.03
Tin or Antimony	...	...	...	.01

100.00

The entire stock of wire from which the samples experimented on were taken, has been supplied by the different manufactories as remarkably pure; and being found satisfactory in mechanical qualities, had never been suspected to present any want of uniformity as to value for telegraphic purposes, until Professor Thomson discovered the difference in conductivity referred to in his paper. Experiments show that the greatest degree of brittleness produced by tension does not alter the conductivity of the metal by as much as one half per cent. Experiments also showed that no sensible effect was produced on the conductivity of copper by hammering it flat. The author has not yet been able to compare very carefully the resistances of single wires with those of strands spun from the same

stock, but it is certain that any deficiency which the strand may present when accurately compared with solid wire, is nothing in comparison with the differences presented by different samples chosen at random from various stocks of solid wire and strand in the process of preparation for telegraphic purposes. The great scientific experiment about being made in laying down the Atlantic telegraph cable gives great importance to this communication of Professor Thomson.

THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

The general diffusion of sound views on science, art, and literature, is the chief object of our existence. This is our special vocation. The time is not long gone by when it was but an ungrateful and thankless office. Now, happily, the subject of general education in its highest sense—the education of the intellect, the taste, the moral faculties—is occupying a large and ever-increasing portion of the public attention. “The great,” not only by birth, wealth, or position, but by intellectual superiority, do not now think it beneath them to assist, personally, in the good work of raising the mental condition of the lower orders of the community. While Parliament talks much and does something towards the improvement of the primary education of the lower orders, the gentry and clergy of our towns and country parishes are engaged in practically solving the problem, though, like everything in this world, their endeavours are crowned with a very partial measure of success. Meanwhile secondary education is assuming the paramount importance which it should hold in the public mind. Oxford has just thrown open her honours to the general competition of the lower section of the middle classes. The Royal Society is extending its operations. This week we have had to report an important meeting for the investigation of the subject, presided over by Prince Albert. The Manchester Exhibition is attempting to raise the taste of the Lancashire operatives, not with the success, we fear, that the scheme deserves. And now the South Kensington Museum is endeavouring to combine the pursuit of high art with practical usefulness. Interested as we are in the educational movement, and ourself aspiring to the office of a public instructor, we made a point of being present on the Monday when the Museum was for the first time thrown open to visitors. We shall now endeavour to give our readers some account of this institution and its objects.

The South Kensington Museum is not intended merely as a show. The various departments of art and manufactures are to be the text, as it were, for lectures to be delivered to classes of students. The present buildings are provisional only, and are intended to form the nucleus of a great educational apparatus, which shall act and make its influence felt to the remotest parts of the country. It is to be the head-quarters of the educational staff of the nation.

The objects of the Commissioners of Education in establishing it are—“1. To train male and female teachers to give instruction in art, to certify them when qualified, and to make them annual fixed payments, varying according to their acquirements. 2. To aid and assist committees in the provinces desirous of establishing schools of art. 3. To hold public inspections and examinations, and to award medals and prizes to the most deserving candidates. 4. To collect together works of art, pictures, &c., in the central museum, and books and engravings in the central library. 5. To circulate among the schools of art objects from the museum, and books and engravings from the library.”

The Museum appears to have excited much interest among the higher orders. It was attended by crowds of well-dressed people. This was partly owing to its favourable situation in the most beautiful of the suburbs, partly to the attractions of the Sheepshanks' gallery of pictures which occupies a part of it, and partly to the fact that the Queen and Prince Albert set the example of

visiting it. Fashionable ladies and gentlemen seemed somewhat at a loss what to think of the machinery, school desks, and telescopes among which they found themselves wandering helplessly on their entrance. They soon found their way into the gallery of pictures, which was crowded through the day.

The building, which, as we have said, is provisional, is in the form which has now become the normal one for exhibitions. It consists of a nave, and two aisles with galleries, the whole being lighted from the top. The external effect is sufficiently mean and ugly; but the tunnel-like effect of the Manchester building is here avoided by the division of the nave into saloons.

The first saloon is devoted to models of patented contrivances, of which a very excellent descriptive catalogue is published by the Commissioners of Patents, and sold in the building. Here are paddle-wheels, gigantic flanges of screw-propellers, pistons, levers, pulleys, the component parts, in fact, of all the contrivances for ministering to the necessities of life. We feel in the saloon as if we were in a charnel-house of a generation of steam-engines, whose ghastly skeletons are here exposed to view to remind us of the vanity of mechanical life. Where is now the clattering, the hissing, the pounding, the whistling, the elbowing, and spasmodic plunging in which these lifeless monsters once existed? The steam which animated them is fled, and these monstrous limbs which would carry us across the Atlantic are condemned to be looked at in a glasscase. It was a somewhat depressing sight, and we hurried to the next saloon.

This is occupied by specimens of all the apparatus of primary instruction. Here are models of school-houses, the best forms of school-desks, easels, slates, and all the instruments of torture with which the thorny path of primary instruction is thickly strewn. This will be a valuable guide for the numerous class of clergymen and country gentlemen who are engaged in providing schools in their parishes. Different compartments of this saloon are devoted respectively to general education, music, household economy, drawing and the fine arts, natural history, geography and astronomy, chemistry and mechanics. They are filled with books, kitchen stoves, lay-figures, pencils, and paint brushes, pictures of objects of natural history, globes, telescopes, maps, little bottles of different coloured powders, and models of mechanical contrivances. All this will, no doubt, be very useful to students when explained by competent lecturers.

The next saloon is more interesting to the casual visitor. It is devoted to works of art, chiefly of the *cinqe cento* period. Here are carved oak and ebony and walnut chests and cabinets of great beauty of design. But what struck us most were some diptychs and triptychs, and manifold representations of great beauty, placed about the middle of the western wall. The largest is very curious and beautiful. It is said, on the label, to be of the year 1500, and to have been brought from Troyes. It consists of five compartments. In the middle one is the Annunciation, and under it the Crucifixion. The compartment on the extreme right is occupied by the Flagellation at the Pillar, the next by the Bearing of the Cross. On the left are the Entombment and the Resurrection. The groups are most elaborate and life-like, and are brilliantly painted and gilt.

Across the end of the building are various objects of ancient art, and models of the well-known masterpieces of antique sculpture, the Apollo Belvedere, the Medicean Venus, the Fighting Gladiators, the Dancing Fawn, the Farnese Hercules, &c.

On entering the western corridor, we find ourselves in the midst of some most interesting models of ancient Greek architecture, restored to their supposed original state. But on the base of the stand on which each is placed is a photograph of the building in its present dilapidated and fragmentary condition. The opportunity thus afforded of comparing the two is most valuable.

Having admired the severe beauty of Greek art

in the Temple of Theseus, the Parthenon, the Erechtheum, the Propylæa, and the Temple at Segesta, we pass on to the more florid and feeble Roman development. Here are the Temple of Augustus, the Portico of Septimius Severus, the Arch of Constantine. And, as if to demonstrate how impossible it is to reproduce in one state of society the art which originated in a totally different one, the whole is completed by a design, by Nash, for a triumphal arch, in the so-called "classic style," to commemorate Waterloo and Trafalgar. In the most debased pseudo-classic style is a model of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, in grained wood and mother-of-pearl, contributed by the Queen. Up the middle of the corridor are ranged glasscases containing electrotype copies of ancient armour, plate, and metal-work generally, from the Louvre and Musée de l'Artillerie.

A case of mosaics, some found in the Pontine Marshes, others from the Basilica of St. Ambrose at Milan, others from Ravenna, &c., deserves particular attention. When looked at closely, they appear coarse; each piece of various-coloured marble is seen. But at a distance, the boldness of the drawing and the brilliancy and harmony of the colour are marvellous. The mosaic of a peasant milking a goat is a perfect gem of art. It is hardly credible that such a broad effect could be produced with such simple materials, and so few lines. The walls are covered by some curious and beautiful oak panelling from an old house in Exeter.

At the end of the corridor are cases of modern china and glass. We observed what at a distance seemed like a Majolica dish, and some objects of Palissy ware. On coming closer, we soon discovered that apparently irremediable and hopeless weakness which seems to pursue every attempt to revive ancient art at the present day. The features of the Queen and the Empress Eugénie, which the imitator had chosen to depict, looked tame, and ignoble beside those of the Julias and Isabellas whom Maestro Georgio has celebrated on his dishes and tazzas. Here are also some strong though faded specimens of ancient painted glass, and some weak modern transparencies beside them.

Returning down by the east wall of the corridor, we observe it hung with photographs of works of art in the Soulaiges collection, and casts of ivory carvings. But the most interesting objects, perhaps, in the whole collection, are the copies from the frescoes in the Sainte Chapelle and the Sistine Chapel. These are really beautiful in their line, though, in our opinion, it is not the highest.

The gallery over this corridor is devoted to modern, as opposed to classical, architecture and sculpture. It begins by the collection of Gothic specimens belonging to the Architectural Museum in Canon Row, Westminster. This is divided into its several chronological developments, the Romanesque, or Norman, the first pointed, improperly called early English, the middle pointed, or decorated, and the late pointed, or perpendicular, marking the corruption of taste which preceded and prepared the way for the Tudor monstrosities and revival of paganism in the sixteenth century. This is the style which it is attempted to revive in the New Houses of Parliament, which may be described as so many feet of Gothic pattern made to order. Among the most beautiful sculptures we observed a group from the Sanctuary of Notre Dame at Paris. The subject appears to be Christ Blessing the Three Marys. The rough grey stone tells its tale of supernatural love, purity, and grace with marvellous power. The Sainte Chapelle contributes the figure of an archbishop, which expresses dignity and humility to perfection. Perhaps the failure of our modern Gothic sculptors is to be attributed to the difficulty of finding models, rather than to a defect in art itself. In the midst of these remains of genuine mediæval skill is a model of the Royal Palace of Saxe-Coburg, supposed to be built in the Gothic style. It seems to be a comfortable modern house, extremely tame and ugly, and its appearance is not improved by a little meagre crenelling of the parapets, and a dab of mediæval ornamentation stuck on here and

there. The essence of mediæval architecture consists in its constructional forms, and not in surface ornament.

Passing from the Gothic saloon, we enter that devoted to models of the modern imitations of classical sculpture. Of these nude or scantily draped figures of men, women, and boys, we need not speak.

The east gallery is chiefly devoted to objects of commerce. On the walls are some fine pieces of Gobelin tapestry, the colouring wonderfully fresh and brilliant. Here also is exhibited, by the Dean and Chapter, the original model of St. Paul's Cathedral. Then we are ushered into a series of apartments containing every possible article which ministers to the necessities or conveniences of life. Ores, bottles of yellow, red, green, and orange powders, salt, horn, leather, peltry. The display of wax models of foreign fruits, such as plantains, bread-fruits, &c., is interesting. But it appeared to us that scientific completeness, rather than practical utility, is obtained by exhibiting bunches of radishes, carrots, currants, slices of Stilton, Gruyere, and Gloucester cheese, hams, and bacon. The Commissioners of Education might surely take it for granted that the visitors, and even the students who shall frequent the Museum, are not wholly unacquainted with these luxuries.

The great attraction of the exhibition was of course the Sheepshanks' gallery of paintings and drawings, bequeathed to the nation on the condition that it should be placed in a building at Kensington. It is generally believed that the location of this collection at Kensington is the prelude to the migration of the National Gallery to the same site. Into the question of the expediency of the change we shall not now enter; nor would our space admit of a minute description of the contents, even if the crowd had permitted us to give the pictures more than a passing glance. The best of our modern artists are here exhibited. Etty, Sir Edwin Landseer, Wilkie, Mulready, are well represented. But the speciality of the collection consists of the original drawings in which the artists jotted down the first ideas, which they afterwards expanded in their pictures. A pen-and-ink scratch shows the original conception of the well-known picture of 'The Cat's Paw.' The progress of Sir David Wilkie's admirable 'Wooring of Duncan Gray' is marked by a series of inimitable sketches. Finally, the process of etching is well illustrated by impressions in various stages of progress, executed by members of the Etching Club, and by Sir David Wilkie himself.

A Catalogue is published, with a somewhat pretentious preface written by Richard Redgrave, Esq., R.A.

How far this conglomeration of various styles of art is likely to assist in forming the taste of uneducated people is, to our mind, a question. No doubt the future lecturers will have an opportunity of pointing out the faults or the excellences of each. But we fear that there will necessarily be a want of unity in a system of instruction which proceeds on an eclectic system such as that represented by this collection. High art is the spontaneous expression of the feelings of a people. The elegant Grecian polytheism found an adequate expression in the Venus, the Apollo, and the Parthenon; the Christian religion in the mediæval cathedrals. Both sought and found their inspiration in the supernatural and the infinite. This is certainly the highest order of art, and it is wholly beyond the scope of modern feelings. Our Apollos and Venuses are only nude men and women, without a spark of the deity in them; our Gothic churches only highly decorated houses. There is a line of art, however, which is open to us, and this we ought to cultivate. It is the exact imitation of inanimate nature, and the nice and fitting adaptation of our materials to the necessities and conveniences of life. Even these arts were lost in the eighteenth century. Let us by all means recover them. To imitate or rival the works of men who believed in supernaturalism is evidently beyond us.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE project of the Archæological Institute regarding the *vezata questio* of the veritable portraiture of Mary Queen of Scots, has been crowned with unexpected success. Great liberality has been shown by many possessors of valuable portraits, who have contributed to render the series as complete as possible for the purposes of comparison. The gracious encouragement with which Her Majesty has favoured the Institute on this as also on former occasions, is a gratifying mark of royal consideration towards objects of artistic and historical inquiry, prosecuted with intelligence and spirit. Besides the assemblage of portraits and miniatures of Mary Stuart from Windsor Castle, St. James's Palace, and Hampton Court, the visitors of the gallery improvised by the Institute during the past week have had the gratification of examining a large number of rare works of art, contributed from public and private collections. The utmost facility of access has been afforded to the members and their friends, whilst the public generally have obtained ready admission on application for tickets at Messrs. Colnaghi's, or Mr. Graves', in Pall Mall. The private view on Monday was attended by some of the noble contributors, and persons well known as votaries of art. Amongst the company were the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, the Duke of Norfolk, the President of the Academy and Lady Eastlake, Miss Agnes Strickland, Lord and Lady Talbot de Malahide, the Earl Stanhope and Mr. Stirling. On Tuesday Prince Albert, accompanied by Prince William Frederick of Prussia, honoured the Institute with a visit. The Prince was pleased to direct that a valuable small full-length of Mary Stuart, in his collection at Osborne, should be sent up to enrich the series. We shall be enabled hereafter to give a detailed notice of this remarkable exhibition, interesting not only as illustrative of a period replete with touching historical associations, but as an exemplification of art. The painting formerly in the possession of Mr. Frazer Tytler may be classed amongst the most striking portraitures of the sixteenth century. With the portraits are produced several reliques of Mary, her veil, formerly belonging to Cardinal York, her rosary, and other objects given by her to Lord Arundel, also autographs and documents of historical interest.

We have sometimes had occasion to complain of the apparent apathy of the Government in supporting and encouraging science and art. The grants of money to institutions and societies capable of conferring benefits on the nation, have too often been obtained with difficulty and doled out with grudge. A better spirit has certainly of late years begun to prevail, and since Lord Palmerston has been at the head of the administration, fewer causes of complaint on this score have occurred. The proceedings in the House of Commons in voting supplies last Friday, showed how fortunate it is that the present Prime Minister is so firm, while illustrating the difficulties that any government has to contend with, from the unreasonable and foolish prejudices of members of Parliament. When the votes for public buildings were under consideration, Burlington House was made the subject of discussion. Lord John Manners insisted on knowing whether the occupation of that building by the learned societies was to be regarded as temporary or permanent. Mr. Drummond took up the theme, and declaimed, in his peculiar way, against the waste of public money in encouraging science. "One set of gentlemen," said this eccentric grumbler, "were travellers, and called themselves the Geographical Society. Another set of gentlemen, who caught butterflies, called themselves the Linnean Society. Then there was the Geological Society. But what on earth was the use of a Geological Society? Why should the house go on year after year providing out of the public taxes for all these clubs, which they chose to dignify with the name of scientific societies. He protested against this, not only as a useless expenditure, but as being no part of the

proper business of the state." Lord Palmerston replied to this wild raving by a calm expression of his belief, that the cultivation of science tended as much to the development of the national wealth and resources as the encouragement of art, upon which there was no difference of opinion. The objections were hardly worth serious reply, but as other members seemed ready to take advantage of the discussion for factious purposes, the secretary of the Treasury thought it expedient to quiet the malcontents by stating, contrary to the distinct and undoubted understanding on the subject, that the occupation of Burlington House was during the pleasure of the Government. The statement of Mr. Wilson was extorted from the exigencies of the moment in debate, but it is well known that the occupation of Burlington House by the learned societies is, to all intents, to be regarded as permanent, or at least till Government offer more eligible premises for their use. It would have been well if Mr. Drummond and his allies had received a more direct setting down for their officious and illiberal interference. Mr. Drummond seems to have been reading Pope's satire on naturalists—

"O would the sons of men once think their eyes
And reason given them but to study flies!"

But had Pope lived in our day he would have put other men besides the entomologists into his Dunciad.

No information of novelty has been obtained at the Educational Congress that has held its conferences this week, but a great point has been gained in bringing together on common ground men of most opposite views and sentiments. The Earl of Granville and Mr. Baines, Lord Brougham and Sir John Pakington, the Bishop of Oxford and Robert Owen, the Marquis of Lansdowne and Sir Archibald Alison, and many others who have been distinguished by their zeal or services in the cause, though widely differing in regard to special schemes, were assembled in amicable conference. The excellent speech of Prince Albert at the opening gave a tone to the discussions throughout the meeting. There is no subject on which it is more desirable that a spirit of mutual forbearance and of practical charity should prevail. No one questions the statistics of the sad ignorance that prevails, and of its accompanying social and moral evils. But until recently matters were allowed to go on from bad to worse, while politicians and philanthropists were wrangling about the best theoretical system of national education. By the aid of the Government through the Privy Council Board, and by the zeal and liberality of voluntary associations, a vast improvement has been effected during the last twenty or thirty years, the results of which were ably summed up by Prince Albert in his speech in opening the Congress. There are still many evils connected with deficient education, for the consideration of which this conference had been invited. The principal question discussed was the too early removal of children from school chiefly for purposes of gaining wages by labour. To remedy the acknowledged abuses on this field, some advocated a rigid extension of the Factory Act, rendering it illegal to engage children in any employment before a certain age, or without certain educational certificates. Others protested against any increased interference with English liberty in regard to education, and contended that by moral suasion on the parents, and by offering premiums to scholars, the practical object would be attained. This view prevailed in the Congress, and in the Resolutions adopted the prize and certificate system was recommended to be more generally carried out. It was stated, for instance, that since appointments in the dockyard at Devonport had been offered as rewards for proficiency, the education of the whole district had greatly improved. The compulsory system of continental states can only be introduced among the pauper and the criminal population of this country. It is to this point that any further legislative interference can be rightly directed. The advantages of education must be the chief inducement to its extension. No artificial patronage and external compulsion can compensate

for the spontaneous desire for education resulting from experience and conviction of its benefits. The schemes of philanthropists or politicians can only be subsidiary and supplementary to the advancing influence of voluntary efforts on this question. Such was substantially the result of the conferences that have been held this week at the Thatched House Tavern.

In the centenary anniversary year of the battle of Plassey, and the establishment of the British Empire in India, it is proposed to erect a monument to Lord Clive in his native English county of Shropshire. He was born near Market Drayton, but Shrewsbury, the county town, is chosen as the place of the memorial. It is chiefly by names of local celebrity and official station that the scheme seems to be yet supported. The memory of Clive is worthy of a more national memorial. Mr. Macaulay, in his eloquent essay, has celebrated, better than any one else, the glories of Clive. After telling the romantic history of his military exploits, and describing the success of his political rule, he concludes by a noble eulogy of his influence on the administration of our Eastern empire—"If the reproach of the Company and of its servants has been taken away; if in India the yoke of foreign masters, elsewhere the heaviest of all yokes, has been found lighter than that of any native dynasty; if to that gang of public robbers, which formerly spread terror through the whole plain of Bengal, has succeeded a body of functionaries, not more highly distinguished by ability than disinterestedness and public spirit; if we now see such men as Monro, Elphinstone, and Metcalfe, after leading victorious armies, after making and deposing kings, return, proud of their honourable poverty, from a land which once held out to every greedy factor the hope of boundless wealth, the praise is in no small measure due to Clive. His name stands high on the roll of conquerors. But it is found in a better list, in the list of those who have done and suffered much for the happiness of mankind. To the warrior history will assign a place in the same rank with Lucullus and Trajan. Nor will she deny to the reformer a share of that veneration with which France cherishes the memory of Turgot, and with which the latest generations of Hindoos will contemplate the statue of Lord William Bentinck." This is praise more to the point than most of what was spoken by the proposers of resolutions at the meeting this week. In 1855, just fifty years after the glorious day of Trafalgar, the work of the monument to Nelson was with tardy and ungracious effort resumed, to be again abandoned, and still left uncompleted. A hundred years after the battle of Plassey, a victory attended with far greater results to the British Empire, Robert Clive is yet without a national monument.

At a sale of copyrights on Monday and Tuesday last, by Messrs. Southgate and Barrett, the following were the most interesting:—*Wayside Pictures in France, Belgium, and Holland*, by Robert Bell, with nearly 30 very beautiful Woodcuts, 49s. *Woman's Life*, by Emilie Carlen, the Translation, 55s. *Francesca Carrara*, by L. E. L., 3 vols., 23s. *Roughing it in the Bush*, by Mrs. Moodie, 2 vols., 50s. *A Marriage in High Life*, by the Author of 'Trevelyan,' 58s. *Traditions of Chelsea College*, by the Rev. G. R. Gleig, 3 vols., 22 guineas. *Memoirs of Charles Mathews, Comedian*, by Mrs. Mathews, 4 vols. 8vo, with 5 portraits on steel of Mathews, a portrait on copper of Dubois, and another on steel of Thomas Hill, 41s. *The Thames and its Tributaries*, by Charles Mackay, LL.D., with 60 Woodcuts, 2 vols., 30s. *Letters of Gray and Mason*, edited by the Rev. J. Mitford, 8vo, 15 guineas. *The Letters and Works of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu*, edited by Lord Wharfedale, 3 vols., 80s. *Miss Pardoe's Louis the Fourteenth*, in 3 vols., with 5 portraits and 50 woodcuts, 70s. *Miss Pardoe's Court and Reign of Francis the First*, with 9 Portraits, 50s. *The Works of Henage Jesse, Esq.—viz., The Court of England under the Stuarts*, 3 vols., 100s. (The remaining stock at 117s. 10s.) *The Court of England under the Houses of Nassau and Hanover*, 3 vols., 35s. *Memoirs of the Pretenders and their*

Adherents, 2 vols., 30s. *The Memorials and the Celebrities of London*, 4 vols., 8 steel plates, 65s. *George Selwyn and his Contemporaries*, 4 vols., 25s.—*A Century of Caricatures*, or England under the House of Hanover, illustrated by the Caricatures, Satires, and Burlesques of the day, 2 vols., with 300 caricatures by F. W. Fairholt, a portrait on steel of James Gillray, the F.S.A. Caricaturist, and 12 steel engravings, 100s. *Thiers' History of the French Revolution*, with Annotations, translated by Frederick Shoberl, 5 vols., with 40 engravings by Greatbach, 240s. (The remainder of the stock in addition, 145s.) These and some minor copyrights, with the stock we have named, amounted to about 1750s.

The obituary of the week contains the name of Sir James Eyre, M.D., a physician of some eminence, and author of a work which excited considerable notice and amusement, on 'The Stomach and its Difficulties.' Sir James Eyre was a pupil of the famous Abernethy, and from his master imbibed the idea that most of the disorders of the human body were connected with digestive derangements. In the medical profession he had made himself known by papers on this subject, and on the use of some of the salts of silver as almost specifics in certain stomachic complaints. Sir James graduated at Edinburgh. He was knighted by William IV., to whom he carried up an address on his accession to the throne. His companion delegate, Mr. Drinkwater, was also knighted, suggesting a jocular play on the two names, which the late worthy physician used often to repeat in enforcing temperance. He died on the 18th inst., at the age of 67, having been present at the Queen's Levee that day.

The fourth bell of the peal at White Waltham church, Berks, being cracked, it is contemplated to recast it, and present it to the parish in honour of the laborious antiquary, Thomas Hearne, who was a native of White Waltham, and son of the parish clerk. It is wished to raise the sum wanted (about 40s.) amongst the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries, by subscriptions of five shillings each, and to place a suitable inscription on the bell. Contributions will be received by John Yonge Ackerman, Esq., F.S.A. (secretary), Somerset House, or Post Office Orders, payable at Maidenhead, may be addressed to the Rev. Richard Hooper, F.S.A., White Waltham, Maidenhead.

The Oxford Commemoration has passed off with all the *éclat* usually attending the scene, heightened by the glorious summer weather, which has made the out-of-door sports and entertainments as agreeable as the in-door ceremonies have been imposing. In the Sheldonian Theatre on Wednesday, a larger number of honorary degrees of D.C.L. were conferred than had been announced in the list we gave last week. General Sir Colin Campbell and General Sir Fenwick Williams, for whom the honour had been designed last year, now appeared to receive the distinction, and were greeted with vehement cheering by the under-graduates. Similar manifestations from the galleries greeted the appearance of Dr. Livingston, "vir constans et intrepidus." Sir John Macneill was also vociferously cheered, and the names of Robert Stephenson and I. K. Brunel were received with due honour. The announcement of Mr. Dallas was more equivocally greeted, and that of Dr. Waagen elicited expressions also of somewhat doubtful meaning, probably arising from no deeper feeling than amusement at the Latin titles by which he was designated. Dr. Farr, the statistician, and Sir G. Cornewall Lewis, the classical financier, were favourably received, and no marked demonstration attended the other graduates, excepting Sir Charles Nicholson, the Provost of the University of Sydney, the cheers for whom expressed a patronising sympathy for education at the antipodes. The Cretian Latin oration and the recitation of prize essays and poems concluded the academic proceedings of the day.

A pension of 70l. per annum has been conferred on Mrs. Miller, the widow of the late Hugh Miller, in consideration of his services to literature and science.

With sincere regret we announce that Baron Thenard, of the French Institute, died of an attack of apoplexy, in Paris, in the afternoon of Sunday last, aged seventy-nine. He was one of the most distinguished chemists of Europe, and made many discoveries which were of practical utility as well as of scientific interest—the manner of purifying oils was one of them. He wrote a volume called *Recherches Physico-chimiques*, and contributed largely to the *Annales de Chimie*, the *Annales de Physique*, the *Mémoires de l'Académie des Sciences*, &c. He some months back established an Association for the relief of distressed scientific men, which bids fair to be extremely useful, and contributed to it the (for France) large sum of 800*l*. He was one of the few scientific men in Europe who have made money by his acquirements, and this he did by turning his practical discoveries to account. Out of respect to him the Academy of Sciences adjourned the moment his death was announced in the last weekly meeting.

The death of M. Lefebvre des Guerres, a Norman poet of considerable provincial celebrity, is announced; but his works, though esteemed by his countrymen, have not attained reputation abroad, and are by no means likely to attain immortality.

Letters from Dresden announce the death, at Hofförnitz, near that town, of Friedrich August Moritz Retsch, at the advanced age of seventy-seven. Retsch was more known and more valued in England and America than he was in his own country. His illustrations of Shakespeare and other works are marked by the vividness of their fancy, and the beauty of the composition, but are sadly deficient in accuracy of drawing. He had for the last ten years completely retired from the world, and lived with his wife in his pleasant villa at the foot of the vine-clad hills of Hofförnitz. Here he was visited by many pilgrims from England and America, to whom he was always accessible. He would open one sketch-book after another, and greedily swallow the praise which his sketches produced. He was of a genial and kindly nature, good to the poor, and greatly loved by the few friends and neighbours who had the privilege of knowing him.

After a long pause, the fifth number of the second volume of the brothers Grimm's 'Dictionary of the German Language' has just been issued; it contains the words from "Der" to "Dort." It is much to be regretted that this most valuable work progresses so slowly, and it is the more wonderful, as the Grimms receive assistance in their arduous undertaking from a great many of the best philologists in Germany.

A cheap edition of Frese's German translation of Lewes's 'Life of Goethe' is now coming out in numbers in Berlin.

A valuable work has just been published in Leipzig, entitled 'Griechische Mythologie und Antiquitäten,' von Dr. Theodore Fischer. It is a translation and abridgement, in three volumes, of Grote's 'History of Greece,' and although rather too much compressed, is still greatly praised by the critics. This work of Dr. Fischer is in universal favour in Germany, where Mr. Grote's book is greatly prized, but, from its expense, only within the reach of very few.

The Accademia della Crusca has experienced a great loss in the death of Professor Vincenzo Nannucci, sub-librarian of the Riccardiana; he was celebrated throughout Italy for the purity of his Tuscan style, and his deep and scientific knowledge of the Italian language.

The famous library of M. Libri, which comprises books of extreme rarity in a vast number of languages, is to take place within a few days at Paris.

FINE ARTS.

PICTURES AND DRAWINGS.

A COLLECTION of modern pictures, on private view during this month, at No. 4, Russell-place, Fitzroy-square, deserves to be enumerated among the incidents of the art season of 1857. The contributors to this small gallery, by withdrawing themselves from

absolute publicity, are perhaps exempt to a corresponding extent from critical observation; but we may doubtless be pardoned for drawing the attention of the reader to the existence of so remarkable an exhibition. Two rooms on the first floor of the house are occupied by about seventy or eighty works, generally of small size, hung at convenient elevations for inspection. Some of them will be familiar to the frequenters of our art galleries; and others have appeared in one way or the other before large sections of the public; but their re-union here will not be unwelcome. We may premise at once that specimens of the modern school abound: some of the most characteristic of the Pre-Raphaelite works may be studied here; and the chiefs of the movement have given importance to the assemblage by a few choice, but not very emphatic, instances of their powers. Besides oil paintings, the water colours are in many cases of the most elaborate finish. We notice also a number of photographs from the original designs for the late illustrated edition of Tennyson (see 'Lit. Gaz.' ante, p. 514): and some minor works of private rather than general interest. First, there are four portrait heads by Mr. Millais, all, as it appears to us, unexceptionable in taste and drawing. There is Mr. Wilkie Collins, in spectacles, with hands pressed together at the tips of the fingers, as he used to look before the *moustache à l'Empereur* shaded his benign features—a clever and characteristic picture. There is a pencil sketch of Mr. H. Hunt; and two heads of girls, *The Wedding Cards*, full of expression and truthful colouring; and best of all, *The Foxglove*, where the flower wreathed in the hair of the sempstress is almost rivalled in truth and delicacy by those she has so gracefully fixed in her bosom. Finally, Mr. Millais and Mr. Holman Hunt have both exerted their powers on the same subject in a landscape, which the latter calls *The Haunted Manor*. A stream of water falls in splash and sparkle over a flight of flat steps, long since shattered and displaced, on the side of which is a wall of masonry, supporting a bank which is crowded with weeds and wild flowers. These have been drawn and painted with the closest reference to nature: and botanists will appreciate, and we should think applaud, the accuracy of these studies, into which nothing of an exaggerated character has been introduced, unless indeed some yellow colour in the background of Mr. Hunt's drawing be deemed a little mysterious and unaccountable. *The Great Sphinx* was, if we mistake not, exhibited in the Academy of a year or two past. Its resolute, decisive drawing and warmth of colour are still admirable. There is also a sketch in *New Cairo*, by Mr. Hunt, of the same character, and then the designs for Tennyson, of which the *Palace of Art* and the *Lady of Shalott* are the most inexplicable and marvellous. The confusion of detail in the latter is as entangled as the form of the mystic lady, who seems to be unwinding a coil of wires from herself in the *Palace of Art*. And when by a strong exertion of ocular analysis one has resolved the *Lady of Shalott* into its component parts, what do they amount to? A dark face in shade, taken at the gable head of the boat, a profusion of hair, huge figures overshadowing the floating bier, and swans in the dim distance. The result is only one version, and that a vague one, of the thousand and one images which the poem will summon up to the reader's fancy.

We pass to Mr. Rossetti. He is to be seen largely and with great effect in this collection. Two illustrations of Dante by him are of the highest merit, and will surprise those who have not yet witnessed the powers, resources, and poetical expression which this painter has at command. In one, *Dante's Dream at the Death of Beatrice*, four ladies hold a white veil, covered with flowers, over the face of Beatrice. Love, a robed angel, with bow and arrows, bends over the lifeless figure, whilst he holds the hand of the poet; and in the sky above "a multitude of angels," of the most exquisite variety of hues in their robes and wings, are "returning upwards, having before them an exceedingly white cloud." We have never seen,

and can scarcely imagine, a pictorial representation which can better exemplify the profound and unfamiliar images which possessed the imagination of the great Florentine. Another drawing is the *Anniversary of the Death of Beatrice*, where Dante is rising from "a table at a window, where he has been drawing an angel on certain tablets," to welcome some visitors. We might dwell upon the expression of the poet, so well answering to historical tradition, with long face, aquiline nose, large eyes, prominent jaw-bones, dark hair and complexion, and courteous manners; upon the attitudes of the "honourable persons" paying the poet respect, not unmixed with awe; upon the fair landscape outside the window, and the furniture and garniture of the poet's room; but this would be needless; the success of the composition will arrest every observer. With the other Rossettis, the allegorical, nameless group of a palmer leading forth a singing girl, with spiky yellow hair, the letters "D. G." being written above in musical notes; the equally mysterious *Blue Cloak*, where nuns are ringing bells and playing quaint musical instruments; and the mortified-looking *Mary Nazarene* and *Mary Magdalene*, we have less sympathy. We defy visitors, nevertheless, to see these works without carrying away some vivid if not agreeable impressions; while the strange laxity of treatment in the features and hair of some of the figures will strike them no less than the beauty of face in others.

The *Mount Zion* of the late Thomas Seddon is a picture which all should see, for its marvellous advance upon previous attempts to depict the scenery of the Holy Land. Mark the blue shadows of the olives, and the splendid painting of the huge eagles as they gather together upon the carcass. There is a small copy also of the *Jerusalem* by the same artist. Ford Madox Brown contributes some dozen subjects. The most conspicuous is *The Last of England*, a painting of photographic minuteness and of glaring intensity, representing a young couple on board an emigrant ship, the young mother folding her baby in her shawl, the husband sheltering them from the spray with an umbrella; in the background a crowded group of drunken fighting men, weeping women, and careless children; a ship's boat, bearing the name "Eldorado," and the white cliffs and rainy skies of England behind. All must be powerfully impressed by, though few will heartily admire this production. *King Lear* is a scene firmly and admirably painted in high colour; rather laid in style, but composed with strong resolute effort, and completed with admirable finish. *An English Autumn Afternoon* is a landscape taken apparently from some of the rising ground between Hampstead and Highgate, very clear and firm, but harder and more painty than the preceding.

James Campbell carries the Pre-Raphaelite style of execution to an absurd excess, in the group called *Trudging Homewards*. A drawing of such painstaking and ludicrous minuteness has been rarely executed. The deplorable wretchedness of the figures, an old musician and his daughter, is brought out by a photographic accuracy in rendering rags and wrinkles, stains of weather, travel, and tears, and by the dark tone corresponding to the shades of evening; whilst the background, seen through a quickset hedge, which confines the poor wanderers to the weary highway, is painfully literal and exact.

View on the Lake of Thun, Mid-day, by J. W. Inchbold, is a bright clear painting; where the glassy lake, distant Alps, and pleasant village sleeping in the sun have been imitated with admirable resemblance to the particular truths of the region and climate. This picture is one of those still remaining for sale. We may enumerate also an admirable *Study of Dogs*, by William Davis, which displays some clever and highly characteristic touches; and five small landscapes by the same artist present an apparently endless intricacy of boughs and foliage, studied from nature by the aid of photographs. Nor should be passed over two wonderfully exact and life-like drawings by John Brett—*The Engels Horner and Glacier*, and *Moss*

and *Gentians*. R. B. Martineau sends two prominent pictures, *Taming of the Shrew* and *The Spelling Lesson*, the latter in particular displaying a world of careful painting. Arthur Hughes, M. F. Halliday, and Lewes Dickinson are also among the contributors; and alike from its novelty as from the concentration in a small space of a great variety of pictorial effort, this collection is well worthy the notice of the connoisseur.

A proposal for some testimonial in honour of the late Mr. F. Scott Archer, inventor of the collodion process in photography, has taken the benevolent form of a subscription for his widow and family, who have been left unprotected. Prince Albert's name heads the list with a donation of 20*l.*, and the Photographic Society have voted 50*l.*

It has been determined to build a new town hall in Berlin, on a magnificent scale. The building is to be a monument of the best architecture of the day, and artists of all nations are invited to prepare plans, and enter into competition for the work. There are to be three prizes awarded for plans, of three hundred, two hundred, and one hundred and fifty ducats.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

GREAT composers, like great poets, are few, and the announcement of a work so ambitious as a new oratorio naturally excites the curiosity and interest of the musical world. Mr. Henry Forbes, a musician of good name and considerable talent, has appeared as a candidate for high honours in an oratorio entitled *Ruth*, which was first publicly performed on Monday evening, at the Hanover-square Rooms. The theme is the well-known story of Ruth, the Moabitess widow, that beautiful episode of rural and domestic life in the sacred books. But the composition ought rather to have been called a pastoral cantata than an oratorio. Few of the pieces have the characteristics of sacred music, though the words are scriptural, and some of the choruses are celebrations of the Divine praises. But the principal idea of the work is the development of a pretty love tale, and description of rural scenery and life. The chorus of villagers and the chorus of reapers are in keeping with the pastoral strains of the poem, but the choruses of angels, and the grand chorus and fugue at the close of each of the two parts, do not suffice to give the tone to the work which entitle it to be called an oratorio. The best passages are in the lighter love scenes, some of which are of pleasing melody, while no little skill in instrumentation is displayed in several of the concerted pieces. The finest air in the whole is in the second part, a burst of joyous melody brilliantly sung by Madame Novello, "Light is around me," each of the verses succeeded by a short and well sustained chorus. We must confess disappointment, however, as far as a first hearing of the work is concerned. Although there was every advantage in the parts of *Ruth* and *Naomi* being taken by Madame Novello and Miss Dolby, and *Boaz*, *Hebron*, and the *Prophet*, by Messrs. Weiss, Benson, and Lawler, few of the recitatives and airs are marked by striking melody, or leave distinct impression on the memory. The choruses are generally too unbrokeably loud, and the proper use is not made of repose and contrast, which the variety of the themes would have suggested to a composer of genius as well as talent. One could not help thinking what Haydn would have made of such a subject. The performances of the powerful band, selected from the Philharmonic and Royal Italian Opera orchestras, and of the chorus of fifty voices, were not such as might have been expected. In its present form we doubt whether *Ruth* will take a permanent place among musical works of a high class, but Mr. Forbes might still make it a fine pastoral cantata. The audience seemed, however, well satisfied with the performance on Monday evening, and several of the pieces were encored, such as the air, "The ripened grain o'er all the plain," by Mr. Weiss, and the reapers' chorus, and

the air, "I sit within her father's house," by Mr. Benson, and airs by Miss Dolby and Madame Novello, more for the excellence of the execution than the merit of the composition.

In addition to the memorial entertainments for the Jerrold Family Fund previously announced, her Majesty has commanded a representation of *The Frozen Deep*, to take place at the Gallery of Illustration, on the 4th of July, when Mr. Wilkie Collins' play will be performed by the original amateur company, as at Tavistock House, under the superintendence of Mr. Charles Dickens.

The second great Rhenish musical festival, which took place at Mannheim on the 14th and 15th of June, was thoroughly successful, and attended by a vast number of visitors from the neighbouring towns. There were seven hundred vocal and one hundred and sixty instrumental performers. The pieces performed were Mendelssohn's *Elias*, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with chorus, Durante's *Magnificat*, besides several minor compositions. Capelmeister Lachner, who was to have conducted, was prevented unfortunately by illness, but his place was most ably filled by Hiller of Cologne.

Letters from Switzerland announce that the great Annual Musical Festival of the Confederation is to take place next year in Zurich, and that preparations are already being made for the accommodation of three thousand singers.

The two brothers Formes, the bass and tenor singers, have been giving representations in Frankfurt, but not with their usual success. At the termination of their engagement Herr Ander, from the royal opera of Vienna, was to sing for four nights. The places had already been all engaged, although the prices of the seats had been considerably raised.

The body of the celebrated Russian musical composer, Glinka, had according to the last Russian letters just reached St. Petersburg, and the funeral was to take place immediately with great pomp. Glinka was to be buried in the church of the 'Holy Spirit,' in the Newsky monastery, and the body to be laid near those of Karaznin, Schulowski, and Kryloff.

Dr. Milman's *Fazio*, in an Italian version by Sig. F. Dall' Ongaro, was produced on Wednesday at the Lyceum. The play, even in the original, with its five acts, is somewhat heavy, and the language is of a more formal kind than is well adapted for the modern stage, though abounding in touches that please the literary reader. But the character of *Bianca* is one which has various points well adapted for dramatic display, and has always been a favourite one with the highest tragic artists. Miss O'Neill had the part when the play was first performed at Covent Garden, forty years ago. Mrs. Fanny Kemble used to be great in it, and Miss Cushman and Miss Glyn have distinguished themselves more recently by their representations. Madame Ristori has thrown a new and wonderful lustre on the part. The outline of the story may be briefly recalled to those who are not familiar with it. *Fazio*, a poor alchemist, suddenly becomes rich by using the wealth of a miserly neighbour, whom he found murdered by robbers. In his new state of prosperity he neglects *Bianca*, the fond and faithful wife of his adversity, and renews an attachment with a haughty dame, *Aldabella*, who had contemned him when poor. *Bianca*, in the bitterness of jealousy, accuses her husband of the murder of old *Bartoldo*. *Fazio* is arrested, and the discovery of the body buried in his garden, as told by *Bianca*, secures his condemnation. Then suddenly remorse seizes *Bianca*, and she strives in vain to assert his innocence. Her entreaties and wild protestations are disregarded, and her heart bursts with grief when *Fazio* is executed. The varied passions here indicated, the tender affection of the early scenes, the suspicion rising gradually to jealousy and culminating in resolution of revenge, the sudden revulsion of feeling on seeing the result of her accusation, the agony of her last hours with *Fazio*, and the wild rage of her interview with *Aldabella* after her husband's death—all these phases were represented with marvellous effect. In look,

mien, and manner, as well as in the tones of voice, and more ordinary play of action, the dramatic points and transitions of the plot were rendered thrillingly impressive, and the audience testified by continual applause their appreciation of the admirable performances. Among the displays of most striking art we may mention the appearance of wretchedness when *Bianca* observes the altered conduct of her husband, the anxious look when she puts the abrupt test in the words 'Hai veduto *Aldabella*?' the sinking of her heart evinced in her manner on learning the sad truth, the agitation of the trial scene, and the paroxysm of despair on awaking from the trance in prison and finding *Fazio* has been taken away. This prison scene throughout was full of fine touches, and when with feeble strength but strong resolution she staggers towards the prison door, we see how much there is 'between the lines' of the poet's work for the actress of genius to suggest and represent. If the *Lady Macbeth* comes up to the *Bianca*, the only part in which Madame Ristori has given opportunity of her being measured with well-known performers, we can understand the superiority which has been claimed for her over all contemporaries on the tragic stage. We ought not to omit to say that the part of *Fazio* was admirably performed by Signor Vitaliani, and the other parts suitably filled.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—April 3rd.—The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., F.R.S., President, in the chair. Rev. J. Barlow, M.A., F.R.S., 'On some Modifications of Woody Fibre and their Applications.' After all the soluble parts of a plant, its gum, its sugar, its extractive matter, and its aromatic oil, as well as its starch and gluten, have been separated, the residue is a substance to which the names of 'lignine,' 'cellulose,' 'sclerogen,' have been given. Of this substance vegetable fibre may be regarded as a natural modification. Having adverted to this fact, Mr. Barlow noticed the distinctive physical properties of fibre—its strength, its flexibility, its readiness (though to a certain extent elastic) to take a permanent set or bend. He adverted to an ingenious application which has been made of these qualities, while the fibres yet remain part of the wood in which they were found. By powerful pressure, and the use of metallic bands during the process to support the wood, Mr. Blanchard, of New York, succeeded in giving permanent curvature to beams and planks without injury to the fibre. The invention received the first class medal at the Paris Exhibition of 1855, and it is now adopted by the Timber-Bending Company. Specimens of wood, thus bent, were exhibited; and it was shown that the fibres evinced no tendency to straighten, unless exposed to the joint influence of heat and moisture. But the principal subject of Mr. Barlow's discourse being the *Parchment-paper*, invented and patented by Mr. W. E. Gaine, C.E., and about to be introduced into commerce by Messrs. Thos. De la Rue and Co., he confined his remarks principally to the physical and chemical properties of vegetable fibre when converted into paper. A sheet of unsized paper is the result of the same forces which produce the sand flagstones which pave our streets—the forces which cause particles, when brought together under water, to remain in close contact after the water has been withdrawn. This was experimentally exhibited. It was also shown that, when the vegetable fibres were long and strong (as those of the *Daphne papyracea*, from which much of the Indian paper is made), the paper possesses the requisite strength. In other cases the paper is strengthened and rendered sufficiently impervious to fluids for all requisite purposes, by being made to imbibe, during the process of manufacture, vegetable or animal size. But all paper is liable to be disintegrated by water, however strongly it may have been sized. The chemical composition and properties of woody fibre were then considered. The components of this substance are carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen; the last-named elements being com-

lined in the same proportion as they exist in water. In this respect woody fibre is identical with starch, dextrine, gum, and sugar. Unlike these substances, it is insoluble whether in water, ether, alcohol, or oil, and much more averse than they are to chemical change. Mr. Barlow called attention to the enormous inconvenience which would arise if water could dissolve cloth, or if vegetable tissues were easily decomposed. It is, however, many years since Braconnot discovered that sawdust, linen, and cotton fabrics, &c., could be made to part with a portion of their constituent hydrogen in exchange for an oxide of nitrogen obtained from the decomposition of the nitric acid with which they were treated. Pelouze afterwards applied this principle in operation on paper; and to the same principle must be ascribed the gun-cotton and collodion of Schönbein. Taking what may be called the gun-paper (Pelouze's paper) as a type of all these substances, Mr. Barlow showed by experiment that it is inflammable and highly electrical, and that in consequence of the substitution of a certain number of equivalents (varying from five to three) of hiponitric acid (NO_2) for an equal proportion of hydrogen, it becomes 50 per cent. heavier than the paper out of which it was converted. Gun-cotton is soluble in ether and potash: the latter solution has the property of reducing silver, in a bright metallic mirror, from the nitrate of that metal. The surface-action of vegetable fibre in receiving dyes was then mentioned, in order to introduce some researches recently made by M. Kuhlmann, Director of the Mint at Lille. Led to the investigation by the general notion that azotized substances, as wool, silk, &c., are more susceptible of dyes than are vegetable textures, M. Kuhlmann instituted a series of experiments on gun-cotton, both woven and in the wool, by which he discovered that cotton or flax, thus azotized, will not take dye; but that if either by spontaneous, or else by artificially-produced decomposition, the fibre loses part of its nitrous principles, it then actually combines with colours much more energetically than it did while in its natural state. Specimens of the cloth which M. Kuhlmann had experimented upon, and which that gentleman had sent for illustration of this subject, were exhibited. Having reminded the audience that, in all these cases, a change in chemical constitution accompanied the change in physical properties, Mr. Barlow contrasted with the pyroxylied textures of Kuhlmann and the gun-paper of Pelouze, the woven fabrics subjected to Mercer's process, and the *Parchment-paper*, the invention of Mr. Gaine. By acting on cloth with chloride of zinc, tin, or calcium, with sulphuric and arsenic acid, and, especially, by the caustic alkalis in the cold (the temperature sometimes being lowered to -10° Fahr.), Mr. Mercer has obtained many important effects on the fineness and the general appearance of cloth, and its susceptibility of dye. This subject was brought before the Royal Institution by Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., and it has since been closely investigated by Dr. Gladstone. Mr. Mercer also experimented on the effect of acids on paper. It being known that sulphuric acid, under certain conditions, modified vegetable fibre, Mr. Gaine instituted a course of experiments to ascertain the exact strength of acid which would produce that effect on paper which he sought, as well as the time during which the paper should be subjected to its action. He succeeded in discovering, that when paper is exposed to a mixture of two parts of concentrated sulphuric acid (s. g. 1.854, or thereabouts) with one part of water, for no longer time than is taken up in drawing it through the acid, it is immediately converted into a strong, tough, skin-like material. All traces of the sulphuric acid must be instantly removed by careful washing in water. If the strength of the acid much exceeds or falls short of these limits, the paper is either charred, or else converted into dextrine. The same conversion into dextrine also ensues, if the paper be allowed to remain for many minutes in the sulphuric acid after the change in its texture has been effected. In a little more than than a second of time, a piece of porous and feeble unsized

paper is thus converted into the *Parchment-paper*, a substance so strong, that a ring seven-eighths of an inch in width, and weighing no more than 23 grains, sustained 92 lbs.; a strip of parchment of the same dimensions supporting about 56 lbs. Though, like animal parchment, it absorbs water, water does not percolate through it. Though paper contracts in dimensions by this process of conversion into *Parchment-paper*, it receives no appreciable increase of weight, thus demonstrating that no sulphuric acid is either mechanically retained by it or chemically combined with it. It has also been ascertained by analysis that no trace of sulphur exists in the *Parchment-paper*. The fact of this paper retaining its chemical identity, constitutes an important distinction between it and the gun-papers of Pelouze and others. Unlike those substances, it is neither an electric, nor more combustible than unconverted paper of equal size and weight, nor soluble in ether or potash. Unlike common paper, it is not disintegrated by water; unlike common parchment, it is not decomposed by heat and moisture. In this remarkable operation, the action of the sulphuric acid may be classed among the phenomena ascribed to catalysis (or contact action). It is, however, conceivable that this acid does, at first, combine with the woody fibre, with or without the elimination of oxygen and hydrogen, as water; and that this compound is subsequently decomposed by the action of water, in mass, during the washing process, the sulphuric acid being again replaced by an equivalent of water; for, as has been before stated, the weight of the paper remains the same before and after its conversion. Mr. Warren de la Rue and Dr. Müller are engaged in researches on this subject, which will be hereafter published. Those who are interested in chemical inquiry will recall many instances of physical changes occurring in compound bodies, while these bodies retain the same elements in the same relative weights. The red iodide of mercury is readily converted, by heat, into its yellow modifications; yet, by the mere act of being rubbed, it is made to resume its former colour. Nothing is added to or taken from this substance in the course of these changes. The inert and permanent crystals of cyanuric acid are resolved by heat into cyanic acid—a volatile liquid characterised by its pungent and penetrating odour, and so unstable that, soon after its preparation, it changes into a substance (cyanamide) which is solid, amorphous, and destitute of all acid properties. These substances, as well as fulminic acid, (which, however, is known in combination only,) contain carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen, in the same relative proportion. But the closest analogy to the production of *Parchment-paper*, scientifically considered, is perhaps afforded by what is called "the continuous process" in etherification. It will be remembered that, in this process, sulphuric acid, at a temperature of 284° Fahr., converts an unlimited quantity of alcohol into ether and water. In the first stage of this process, as explained by Williamson, it would appear that the sulphuric acid combines with the elements of ether to form sulphovinic acid; and that, in the further progress of the operation, this compound, by coming into contact with a fresh equivalent of alcohol, is, in its turn, decomposed, and resolved into ether and sulphuric acid. The ether distils over together with the water resulting from the decomposition of the alcohol: the sulphuric acid remains in the retort ready to act on the next portion. Here, as in the case of the *Parchment-paper*, the sulphuric acid does not form a permanent constituent of the resulting substance, though it takes so important a share in its production. The strength of this new substance, before alluded to, and its indestructibility by water, indicate many uses to which it may be applied. It will probably replace to some extent vellum in bookbinding; it will furnish material for legal documents, such as policies of insurance, scrip certificates, &c.; it will take the place of ordinary paper in school books, and other books exposed to constant wear. Paper after having been printed either from the surface or in intaglio, is still capable of conversion by Mr.

Gaine's method, no part of the printed matter being obliterated by the process. *Parchment-paper* also promises to be of value for photographic purposes, and also for artistic uses, in consequence of the manner in which it bears both oil and water-colour.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—June 10th.—Dr. John Lee, V.-P., in the chair. Henry Karl, Esq., F. W. Pettigrew, Esq., and Henry N. Scaife, Esq., R.N., were elected Associates. Notes on brasses laid before the Association by Dr. Lee, and observations on Mr. Wills's collection of keys by Mr. Cuming, were read. Mr. Curle exhibited a knife handle of brass, temp. Charles I., representing a lady and gentleman in the dress of that period. Mr. Wright exhibited two examples of spur formerly belonging to Lord Lovat, beheaded in 1745. Mr. Forman exhibited three bronze mirrors, two of which were Etruscan, the third Danish. Mr. C. Ainslie exhibited the key carried by Lord Rochester as Lord Chamberlain to Charles II. Robert Temple, Esq., Chief Justice of Honduras, read a paper on treasure trove, in which he contended that rings, bracelets, collars of gold, breastplates, helmets, and swords inlaid with gold, and costly robes of silk and velvet embroidered with gold, did not come under that denomination, which applied only to money or coin, gold, silver, plate or bullion. In support of his opinion he cited many definitions and legal opinions. Mr. Vere Irving referred to the Scotch laws upon the subject, and the chairman stated Blackstone's views in particular. The whole subject was referred to be reported upon and printed in the 'Journal.' The Annual Congress was announced to take place in August next at Norwich, assembling in that city on the 24th. Excursions were in course of arrangement for Caistor Castle, Burgh Castle, and Yarmouth; Lynn, Castle Rising Castle, Binham Priory and Walsingham; Barmham Hall; Thetford and Ely Cathedral, &c. Norwich and Ely Cathedrals are to be lectured upon by H. H. Burnall, Esq., and C. E. Davis, Esq.; Mr. Planché superintends the sculptures and monumental effigies; Mr. W. H. Black the charters, deeds, and municipal documents; whilst the description of the Castle of Norwich and the remains of ancient buildings will be under the direction of W. C. Ewing, Esq., and R. Fitch, Esq., of Norwich. Mr. Palmer conducts the Association over the antiquities of Great Yarmouth. The Earl of Albemarle presides over the whole.

ANTIQUARIES.—June 11th.—Joseph Hunter, Esq., V.P., in the chair. A donation of nearly five hundred volumes of books, chiefly relating to the history and topography of London and its suburbs, was announced from Mr. J. R. D. Tyssen, a Fellow of the Society, to whom an unanimous vote of thanks was returned. The Rev. Frederic Hill Harford, residing at Croydon, was elected Fellow. The Secretary, by permission of Major Campbell of the 71st Highlanders, exhibited a number of relics obtained by that gentleman from the ancient catacombs at Kertch. They comprised some interesting examples of pottery and glass, beads, coins, and fragments of the blades of swords. Mr. Akerman remarked that these weapons had been discovered in the tombs of men, as he was assured by Major Campbell. It would be in the recollection of the Society, that Dr. Macpherson had found, in the excavations prosecuted by him at Kertch, several fibulæ of a decidedly Germanic type; and these had, by some antiquaries, at once been assigned to the Varangian Guard, mercenaries in the pay of the princes then ruling in this district. The finding of the swords appeared to him almost to reduce this conjecture to a fact, since the occurrence of these weapons appeared to furnish a proof that the individuals here interred had been consigned to their last resting-places more *Germanorum*. The coins comprised several examples in copper of the ancient kings of the Bosphorus, but others were as late as the reign of Constantine the Great. He had been promised by Major Campbell a detailed account of the excavations, which he

trusted might be laid before the Society in the ensuing session. Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P., exhibited a large and very interesting collection of astronomical, astrological, and horometrical instruments, consisting of astrolabes, viatoria, or portable sun-dials, and a very curious dial in the form of a hexagonal gilt cup, accompanied by a verbal explanation of their several uses. The Rev. J. Montgomery Traherne exhibited drawings of Roche Castle, in the county of Pembroke, and communicated some account of the ancient lords of this stronghold. A note was read from Mr. J. H. Parker describing its architectural characteristics. Mr. J. Jackson Howard presented to the Society's collections a Proclamation of King James II., dated 31st January, 1687, granting to the distressed French Protestants "the benevolence of all loving subjects." Mr. George Chapman exhibited two antique Chinese silver enamelled vases of peculiar form, which he stated had long been in the possession of an English family. Mr. William Bollaert, F.R.G.S., then read a communication, entitled 'Antiquarian Researches in the Province of Tarapacá, and Discovery of the Pintados, or Ancient Indian Pictography.' Mr. Bollaert, as early as 1827, noticed these Pintados sculptured in the sides of arid mountains in the province of Tarapacá, consisting of figures of Indians, llamas, dogs, fish, circles, &c., made by scratching or scooping on the sides of mountains, the surface of which was stony and blackish, having a white ground underneath. These figures were 20 to 30 feet in height, the lines 12 to 18 inches broad, and 6 to 8 inches deep. Mr. Bollaert thought at that period that these figures had been done by the old as well as the modern Indian for amusement. Some years afterwards Mr. Seymour noticed a Pintado near Santa Rosa, called Las Rayas, and was informed that it was probable that Indian rites had been and were still performed here. In 1853 Mr. Bollaert revisited Peru, and after examining many of these Pintados, scattered over the said province, consisting generally of the colossal figures of Indians, Pumas, llamas, and other animals, circles, squares, oblongs, &c., came upon one south of La Peña, on the track to Iquique, the principal figure made up of compartments joined by their corners; one of them was found to be a huaca or grave, containing a female habited in a dress of feathers, having on her head a helmet of straw, and under her head a jar containing two small bones. Here then is an instance showing that some of these Pintados are tombs, and in all probability of the more ancient Aymaras. Mr. Seymour, who has just returned from Peru, informs Mr. Bollaert of the existence of a Trident Pintado, near Pisco, 200 yards long; this Mr. Bollaert thinks may be the tomb of some chief, at least as old as the times of the Incas. Sculptures on rocks are not uncommon in the New World, but the existence of these Pintados is not found except in England, one of which is the White Horse of Uffington, in Berkshire. This probably is of religious origin.

STATISTICAL.—June 16th.—Lord Stanley, M.P., President, in the chair. Messrs. Charles Harding, J. N. Harrington, George Hurst, Robert Lush, Q.C., and Lionel G. Robinson were elected Fellows of the Society. Mr. Newmarch read a paper 'On the Electoral Statistics of Counties and Boroughs in England and Wales, 1832-53.' Mr. Newmarch began by stating that it had been his endeavour in writing the paper to avoid political discussion, and to confine himself to the investigation of facts. In England and Wales 81 counties and divisions of counties send 159 members to parliament, having a population of 10,488,000 and 509,000 electors; and 200 boroughs with a population of 7,433,000 and a constituency of 411,000 send 335 members; or, taking counties and boroughs together, there are 920,000 electors to a population of 17,920,000. Although this appears but a small proportion of electors, yet it must be remembered that the number of males above the age of 20 was in 1851 only 4,717,000, or deducting 142,000 (3 per cent.) for those between 20 and 21, 4,575,000 who had attained their majority. The number of houses

inhabited, uninhabited, and building, was in 1851 3,458,000, so that a system of household suffrage would not quadruple the present electoral body. From a consideration of the facts relating to Poor Rate Assessments, as given in the Parliamentary Paper No. 630, 1849, obtained by Mr. Poulet Scrope, it is estimated that an extension of the 104. franchise to counties would raise the electoral body to 990,000, and that a further extension of it to 64. householders in cities and boroughs would raise it to 1,560,000. Two tables were exhibited illustrating some of the more important facts contained in the paper. It appeared that, while the number of electors had increased throughout England and Wales generally, and particularly in the metropolis and its vicinity, and in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, it had remained almost stationary in the agricultural districts, and in the South Western district, containing Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, and Wilts, the county constituency had decreased since 1837. In the conversation which followed, Mr. Jellicoe, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Purdy, Mr. Hyde Clarke, Mr. Welton, Mr. Lumley, Dr. Farr, and the chairman took part, and thanks having been voted to Mr. Newmarch, the meeting separated.

CHEMICAL.—June 18th.—Last Meeting of the Session.—Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., President, in the chair. Mr. H. W. Field was elected a Fellow. The following papers were read:—'On a New Series of Organo-Thionic Acids,' by Mr. Hobson. 'On the State of the Air in Unventilated Apartments,' by Drs. Roscoe and Pettenkofer. 'On an Optical Test for Didymium,' by Dr. Gladstone. 'On the Action of Heat upon Gold,' by Mr. Napier. 'On a New Maximum and Minimum Mercorial Thermometer,' by Mr. MacVicar. 'On Thialdine,' by Dr. Hofmann.

ZOOLOGICAL.—June 23rd.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Slater read a paper containing descriptions of twelve new or little known species of the South American family *Formicariidae*. Mr. R. F. Tomes communicated a paper on two species of bats inhabiting New Zealand. The first notice of the occurrence of *Chiroptera* in New Zealand was given by Forster in 1772-74, who recorded the occurrence of a bat flying over the sea shore near the margin of a wood in the estuary of Queen Charlotte. It was shot, but being struck only in the wing lived for two days. To this species Forster gave the name of *Vespertilio tuberculatus*. Having some time since had occasion to examine some species of bats in the museum of the College of Surgeons, Professor Quekett showed Mr. Tomes one which had been recently received from New Zealand. It was not until he had been assured that he came directly from that country, that he could be persuaded that no mistake as to locality had been made, the example being so entirely unlike the only New Zealand species he had seen. Mr. Tomes shortly after inspected three of this supposed new species in the Leyden Museum; and finally he detected five other examples in the British Museum. Being thus satisfied of the existence of two species of bats in New Zealand, he was anxious, if possible, to determine to which of these Forster had given the name of *V. tuberculatus*. The kindness of Dr. Gray speedily placed in his hands all the necessary materials. There could be no hesitation; the supposed new species was undoubtedly that from which Forster's drawing had been made, whilst the description indicating the number of incisors, and other peculiarities, pointed unequivocally to the same conclusion. The Hon. E. Chitty read a paper on the Jamaican species of *Cyclotus*, and the descriptions of twenty-one proposed new species and eight new varieties of that sub-genus from Jamaica. The new species and varieties were exhibited to the meeting. The Secretary read a paper, by Dr. Gray, containing the description of a new species of antelope from Bombay, lately living in the menagerie of the Society; it was characterized under the name of

Oryx Beatrix. The Secretary also read a paper, by the same author, containing descriptions of two new genera of *Gorgoniadae*; they were named *Sarcogorgia* and *Subergorgia*. The Secretary next read a paper by Mr. A. D. Bartlett, on a rabbit said to be originally brought from the Himalayan mountains. This animal is smaller than the domestic rabbit, being shorter and more compact, its body is pure white, the nose, ears, feet, and tail are of a dark brownish black, the eyes dark red. The fur is much shorter and more nearly equal in length than in the common rabbit. Mr. Bartlett has not yet examined the skull of this animal, but stated that upon so doing should he find sufficient difference, upon comparison with the skulls of the other known species, he should then propose for this animal the name of *Lepus nigripes*.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—May 27th.—William Fairbairn, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected Members:—Messrs. J. Alger, H. H. Bird, C. Botten, jun., W. Clarke, J. Fielden, G. Gamble, R. Ingham, C. T. Masterman, C. P. B. Shelley, J. B. Smith, M.P., R. P. Spice, Andrew Wall, D. Watney, jun., J. Watts, Ph.D., J. F. Winfield, T. Wood. The paper read was 'On some Combinations and Phenomena that occur among the Elements engaged in the Manufacture of Iron, and in the Conversion of Iron into Steel,' by Mr. Christopher Binks. He began by remarking, that the generally received theory of the formation and composition of steel was not perfectly satisfactory. Carbon had been generally considered the only element essential to the conversion of iron into steel, and other matters that analyses might have detected in it in minute quantities had been looked upon as foreign and accidental only. In attempting to throw any new light upon this subject, some suggestive facts might be discovered among the ordinary processes employed by the steel makers. The very old practice of using ferro-cyanide of potassium as an agent of conversion, he said, was worth some consideration. This compound contained nitrogen and potassium as well as carbon. Mr. Binks then proceeded to give the details of a series of experiments made by exposing commercial malleable iron to the action of various substances at a high temperature, and as far as these trials extended, there had always been a co-operation of both carbon and nitrogen whenever steel had been produced, though it still remained to be determined whether this was absolutely necessary to its formation. The general result of his experiments tends to show—that the substances whose application to pure iron convert it into steel all contain nitrogen and carbon, or that nitrogen has access to the iron during the operation; that neither carbon nor nitrogen, used separately, converts iron into steel, but that it is essential that both carbon and nitrogen should be present. That nitrogen as well as carbon exists substantially in steel after its conversion, and that this is the real cause of the distinctive physical properties of steel and iron, in which latter these elements do not exist. That presumptively, but not demonstratively, the form of combination is not that of cyanogen (though that compound plays so important a part in conversion), but is apparently that of a triple alloy of iron, carbon, and nitrogen. With regard to improvements in the present system of manufacture, Mr. Binks was of opinion that the more extensive use of cyanogen compounds is highly important, and he drew particular attention to the fact that these compounds might be economically formed in the ordinary operations of the blast furnace, and at the same time might subserve the purpose of purifying the metal and converting it into steel. A discussion ensued, in which Messrs. D. Mushet, F. A. Abel, T. M. Gladstone, F. Braithwaite, C. D. Archibald, the chairman, and others took part.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Thursday.—Zoological, 3 p.m.
Saturday.—Asiatic, 2 p.m.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. R.; J. C.; T. T. N.; F. L. S.; Nemo—received.

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1844.

The WARRANTS for the HALF-YEARLY Interest, at the rate of Five per cent. per annum, on Deposit Accounts, to the 30th June, will be ready for delivery on and after July the 10th, 1857, and payable daily.

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THE unusual success which has attended the cautious yet energetic operations of this Company has enabled the Directors to add Reversionary Bonuses to Policies on the participating class, averaging nearly £2 per cent. per annum on the sum insured, or from 30 to 100 per cent. on the Premiums paid. Parties insuring with this Company do not incur the risk of Co-partnership, as is the case in Mutual Offices.

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